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<1>

Authors

Leonardi MI. Leonardi LS.

Title

Late hepatic artery thrombosis after liver transplantation: Clinical setting and risk factors

Source

Transplantation Proceedings. 36(4):967-969, 2004 May.

Abstract

The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence clinical presentation, and impact on outcome of late hepatic artery thrombosis (HAT) after OLT. We also sought risk factors other than technical problems that predispose to the pathogenesis of late HAT among 178 OLT performed from 1999 to 2002. Late HAT was diagnosed using Doppler ultrasonography and arteriography. Late HAT was observed in nine patients (3.8%); all of whom had experienced chronic HCV infection. Median time to HAT diagnosis was 4.88 months after OLT. Mean follow-up time was 40.25 months. Recipient age ranged from 30 to 61 years and median donor age, 28 years. Mean warm ischemia time was 63 minutes and mean cold ischemia time, 660 minutes. All of our study group were cigarette smokers. Postoperative CMV infection, presenting with hepatitis, had been treated in 55.6%. Before the diagnosis of HAT more than one episode of acute cellular rejection had been observed in six patients (55.6%) and 44.5% had chronic rejection. The diagnosis of CR was established after the diagnosis of HAT in all cases. Recurrence of HCV infection was histologically documented in 44.5%. Only one patient experienced graft loss (77 months after OLT). Six of nine patients had biliary complications, treated either by endoscopic stenting or by surgical drainage. Two patients were asymptomatic. In conclusion, late HAT shows a benign presentation that has no impact on graft survival. Possible risk factors have yet to be defined by multicenter trials. [References: 21]

Publication Type

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~~✓~~ Authors

Knight RJ. Zela S. Schoenberg L. Podder H. Kerman RH. Katz S. Van Buren CT. Kahan BD.

Title

The effect of pancreas transplantation on peripheral vascular disease complications

Source

Transplantation Proceedings. 36(4):1069-1071, 2004 May.

Abstract

Background. We sought to determine whether pancreas transplantation reduced the incidence of peripheral vascular complications in diabetics with renal insufficiency.

Methods. A retrospective single-center review was done of 36 kidney-pancreas (KP) and 88 kidney-alone (KA) recipients with a diagnosis of diabetes and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) transplanted between May 1997 and July 2002. Risk factors studied included type of transplant, age, gender, history of smoking, coronary artery disease, hypertension, and peripheral vascular disease (PWD). The endpoint was first peripheral vascular event occurring after transplantation, defined as either an amputation or revascularization procedure.

Results. The mean age of the cohort was 51.9 years, 64% of patients were of male gender, 20% with a history of smoking, 98% with hypertension, 15% with coronary artery disease (CAD), and 12% with a history of PWD. With a median follow-up of 45 months (12 to 79 months), 3/36 (8%) of KP recipients suffered a PWD complication, compared to 10/88 (11%) of KA recipients ($P = \text{NS}$). Similarly, age, gender, a past history of smoking, CAD, and hypertension were not predictive of PWD complications. Five of 15 patients (33%) with a pretransplant history of PWD suffered a postoperative PWD event compared to only 8 of 109 patients (7%) with no prior history of PWD ($P = .008$).

Conclusions. Restoration of normoglycemia by pancreas transplantation did not reduce the risk of PWD complications in diabetics with renal failure. A pretransplant history of PWD was the only risk factor associated with posttransplant PWD events. [References: 7]

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<3>

Authors

Luo SJ. Fang F. Zhao MY. Zhai HB.

Title

A one-pot assembly of 4-allyl-3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde. A new synthesis of 1-methyl-1,2,3,3a,4,8b-hexahdropyrrolo[3,2-f]pyridine, an annulated nicotine analogue

Source

Tetrahedron. 60(25):5353-5355, 2004 Jun 14.

Abstract

This paper describes a two-step synthesis of 1-methyl-1,2,3,3a,4,8b-hexahdropyrrolo[3,2-f]pyridine, a conformationally constrained nicotine analogue. The target molecule was effectively assembled by an intramolecular azomethine ylide-alkene [3+2] cycloaddition. The cyclization precursor, 4-allyl-3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde, was formed efficaciously in a single step from 3-pyridinecarboxaldehyde via sequential *in situ* protection, ortho lithiation, cuprate formation, allylation, and deprotection. The cuprate formation plays a vital role in minimizing/eliminating the extent of multiple alkylation. (C) 2004 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

[References: 25]

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Authors

Bazina IB. Bogachev RS. Kovalev OI. Ivantseva TV. Lijke MV.
Rafeenkova VS. Shutova EP.

Title

Epidemiological and social aspects of arterial hypertension in young patients (results of in-office study in Smolensk) [Russian]

Source

Terapevticheskii Arkhiv. 76(1):31-33, 2004.

Abstract

Aim. To study prevalence of arterial hypertension (AH) in young Smolensk population sample. All risk factors, awareness of the patients about their disease, treatment compliance.

Material and methods. The in-office study covered 1068 employees. In diagnosis of AH, the patient answered the questions about AH risk factors, attitude to treatment.

Results. AH was highly prevalent in the examined population (27.9%). Patients under 45 years of age accounted for 38.9% of all the examinees with AH. The risk factors included overweight and obesity (65.5%), smoking (53.5%), family AH history (52.6%). In spite of high awareness about AH (72.4%) and opinion about AH as an important social problem, young patients demonstrate low treatment compliance (12%). This is explained by psychological features of such patients.

Conclusion. It is necessary to examine quality of life of AH patients aged under 45 years, setting up of special schools to maintain educational activity, psychological and rehabilitation care. [References: 8]

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<5>

Authors

Tozhiev MS. Norbekov MS. Shestov DB. Khvan YE. Vorobyev AM. Terebov AA. Avdeeva GP. Marchenko AM. Kashirina ML. Klimova MY. Makritsa AN. Bondarenko VV. Teplyakov VC.

Title

Prevalence of ischemic heart disease, its main risk factors and efficacy of long-term multifactorial prevention at enterprises in some regions of the Russian Federation [Russian]

Source

Terapevticheskii Arkhiv. 76(1):33-38, 2004.

Abstract

Aim. To study prevalence of ischemic heart disease (IHD) and its various clinical forms depending on sex, age, profession including risk factors (RF) and their combination and efficiency of long-term multifactorial active prevention programs at enterprises in several regions of the Russian Federation.

Material and methods. 14000 male and 20969 female volunteers were observed in organized groups in three Russian cities (Cheboksary, Pskov, St-Petersburg). 8984 males and 14515 females entered seven groups of outpatient follow-up and active long-term multifactorial prevention during 5-10 years.

Results. Risk factor correction produced a significant decrease in mean systolic and diastolic blood pressure, frequency and intensity of smoking, overweight, improved ECG parameters, increased number of the examinees free of risk factors; state of IHD patients improved. Overall mortality, IHD and stroke mortality, number of temporary disability days were significantly less in the prevention group.

Conclusion. Active multifactorial "in office" prevention for 5 to 10 years

reduced RF prevalence and intensity, quantity of days at sick-leave fell by 48.5%. The presence of IHD and risk factors in both groups increased overall mortality rates and cardiovascular (IHD and stroke) mortality rates at the beginning of the study. The multifactorial prevention of IHD and risk factors resulted in a significant reduction of overall mortality rates as well as cardiovascular mortality rates in groups of active prevention. [References: 33]

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Authors

Brimkulov NN. Vinnikov DV. Cholurova RA.

Title

A comprehensive assessment of nicotine dependence using questionnaires and measurements of carbon monoxide concentration in the exhaled air [Russian]

Source

Terapevticheskii Arkhiv. 76(1):53-58, 2004.

Abstract

Aim. To study nicotine dependence (ND) basing on special questionnaires and measurement of CO concentrations in the exhaled air.

Material and methods. 350 smokers (318 males and 32 females) aged 20-57 years (mean age 37.1 +/- 7.3 years) were studied. ND was assessed by Fagerstrom test (FT), motivation to smoke and to quit tests, smoking history and exhaled CO measurement. In addition, respiratory complaints and ventilation parameters such as peak expiratory flow (PEF) and forced expiratory volume per 1 sec (FEV1) were measured.

Results. Mean daily cigarette number was 14.2 +/- 7.3; smoking duration 16.3 +/- 7.8 years and smokers index 170.9 +/- 87.8. Smoking women differed from smoking men in ND, PEF% and FEV1% decline as well as CO level. Exhaled CO was 21.1 +/- 9.5 ppm, on the average, corresponding to moderate dependence. ND and daily cigarette number produced a direct impact on the exhaled CO level. FT findings directly correlated with the number of daily cigarettes and CO level (mean 3.2 +/- 2.3). Among motivation to smoke factors was the demand to release tension.

Conclusion. ND varies considerably among smokers by severity. Smoking men and women differ considerably by ND. Along with dependence tests, exhaled CO measurement provides objective verification of ND. [References: 24]

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~~<7>~~

Authors

Hollar D. Moore D.

Title

Relationship of substance use by students with disabilities to long-term educational, employment, and social outcomes

Source

Substance Use & Misuse. 39(6):931-962, 2004 May.

Abstract

The study is based on data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988-2000 (NELS: 88). The results indicate that adolescents with disabilities who used either cigarettes or marijuana or who engaged in binge drinking had significantly higher dropout rates, lower high school

graduation status, lower college attendance, and lower high school grade point averages, and fewer earned core credit units in English, science, and mathematics than nonusers. In addition, adolescents with disabilities who used either cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs were significantly more likely to engage in sexual activity at a younger age. The findings support the need for improved substance use prevention programming targeting the needs of youth with disabilities. [References: 52]

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<8>

Authors

Pana C. Negurescu N. Popa MG. Pop G. Ganea R. Natu N. Teodorescu C.

Title

Dimethylether - Ecological fuel for diesel engines [Rumanian]

Source

Revista de Chimie. 55(4):253-258, 2004 Apr.

Abstract

Dimethylether(DME) is identified as a clean new alternative fuel for diesel engines. DME can provide very low emissions and totally smokeless diesel engine operation. A theoretical investigation of the DME fueled diesel engine has been carried for the same aspects of the engine operating possibilities with the diesel cycle. The paper presents modelling results of the processes inside the fueled diesel engine cylinder with DME and gasoil applying the double injection method. [References: 37]

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<9>

Authors

Reine I. Novo M. Hammarstrom A.

Title

Does the association between ill health and unemployment differ between young people and adults? Results from a 14-year follow-up study with a focus on psychological health and smoking

Source

Public Health. 118(5):337-345, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

Objectives. Research has given a comprehensive picture of the negative health consequences of unemployment without offering sufficient comparison between different age groups. The aim of this study was to analyse whether the associations between ill health, particularly poor psychological health and smoking, and unemployment differ between young and adult men and women.

Study design. A 14-year follow-up study of graduates of compulsory school in an industrial town in northern Sweden was undertaken. The subjects were analysed at ages 16, 21 and 30 years. Complete data on the cohort were collected for 1044 individuals with the aid of a comprehensive questionnaire. The response rate was 96.4%.

Methods. The main health measurements used in this study were poor psychological health and smoking, analysed by multivariate logistic regression.

Results. After controlling for several background variables, associations

between long-term unemployment and poor psychological health were found in young men and women, and adult men. Long-term unemployment was only associated with smoking in young people.

Conclusions. The association between long-term unemployment and psychological health, as well as smoking, seemed to be stronger in young people than adults. (C) 2004 The Royal Institute of Public Health.

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Authors

Fang J. Huang Z. Qiao X. Zhong Y. Song J.

Title

Study on a pre-mixed charge compression ignition engine by dimethoxymethane port injection

Source

Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Part D, Journal of Automobile Engineering. 218(D5):549-555, 2004 May.

Abstract

This paper presents a study of premixed combustion in a compression ignition (CI) engine. An electrically controlled fuel injection system was installed in the intake manifold of the engine. Dimethoxymethane (DMM) fuel with a low cetane number and low boiling point was injected into the manifold. The homogeneous mixture was formed in the compression stroke and ignited by a small amount of injected diesel fuel near the TDC (top dead centre). The effects of pre-mixed fuel ratio, engine load, CO, concentration in the intake gas and nozzle hole diameter on the engine combustion and emissions were investigated. The results show that the pre-mixed combustion by DMM fuel port injection exhibits a substantial reduction of NO_x and smoke emissions simultaneously, which might make it possible to develop a technique for controlling diesel engine exhaust emissions. [References: 10]

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<11>

Authors

Cao J. Bian Y. Qi D. Cheng Q. Wu T.

Title

Comparative investigation of diesel and mixed liquefied petroleum gas/diesel injection engines

Source

Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Part D, Journal of Automobile Engineering. 218(D5):557-565, 2004 May.

Abstract

Experiments are conducted on engine performance and sprays and a characteristics analysis is made between diesel and mixed liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)/diesel injection engines. The performance test results show that with LPG the mixed ratio increases, engine power reduces slightly, fuel consumption and engine noise have almost no change, pollutant emissions of smoke, CO and NO_x at full load are improved significantly, but the amount of unburned HC increases. The experimental results of the sprays indicate that because of flash boiling injection of mixed fuel, mean diameters in a spray decrease, the number distribution curve of fuel droplet size moves towards smaller diameters, small-size

droplet numbers increase, spray quality is good and engine smoke reduces accordingly. Because large-size droplet diameters show almost no change and small-size droplet diameters decrease, the relative span factor and dispersion boundary factor of the droplet diameter increase.

High-resolution digital camera photography is invaluable when carrying out a comparative investigation of spray. [References: 7]

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<12>

Authors

Kupeli E. Karnak D. Kayacan O. Beder S.

Title

Clues for the differential diagnosis of hypersensitivity pneumonitis as an expectant variant of diffuse parenchymal lung disease

Source

Postgraduate Medical Journal. 80(944):339-345, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis, also called extrinsic allergic alveolitis, a type of diffuse parenchymal lung disease (DPLD), is an immunologically mediated pulmonary disease induced by inhalation of various antigens. As data on the frequency of hypersensitivity pneumonitis are lacking in Turkey, a retrospective analyses was performed in 43 patients with DPLD, followed up over seven years. The objective was to discover cases fulfilling the diagnostic criteria for hypersensitivity pneumonitis, to determine the frequency and/or the new characteristics of the disease, and to pick up clues for differentiating it from other DPLDs. The four subjects with hypersensitivity pneumonitis (9%) who lived in an urban area were studied in detail. The most common symptoms were dry cough and dyspnoea. According to the symptom duration, clinical features, radiological and pathological findings, three were diagnosed with chronic and one with subacute hypersensitivity pneumonitis. Patients with hypersensitivity pneumonitis and those with DPLD were compared by means of age, sex, smoking status, symptom duration, haematology, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, peripheral cell count, spirometric parameters, blood gases, and diffusion capacity. No statistically significant difference was detected in these parameters except for forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) and forced vital capacity (FVC). In conclusion, patients with a history of antigen exposure, with mild symptoms such as dry cough and dyspnoea, and who have diffuse interstitial lung involvement on radiology should be carefully evaluated for hypersensitivity pneumonitis. Moreover, among other DPLDs, stable FEV1 or FVC values may be the clues for establishing the diagnosis of hypersensitivity pneumonitis. However, further studies are needed in larger series of patients. [Références: 15]

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<13>

Authors

Tawfik SY. Asaad JN. Sabaa MW.

Title

Studies on polymeric composites containing alumina trihydrate and Aswan clay fillers

Source

Polymer-Plastics Technology & Engineering. 43(1):57-79, 2004.

Abstract

Polymeric composites prepared from unsaturated polyester resin based on

poly(1,2 propylene-maleate- α -carboxy phthalanilate) were used with styrene monomer (40% by weight) as a binder and alumina trihydrate (ATH) ($\text{Al}(\text{2})\text{O}(\text{3})\text{(.})\text{3H}(\text{2})\text{O}$) or clay as fillers. The effects of the type and concentration of the two fillers on the physical, chemical, mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties of the formed composites were studied. The fire retardant efficiency of the prepared composites was also investigated. The results indicated that the use of ATH filler reduces both the flammability and smoke density whereas Aswan clay increases the thermal stability. Both fillers enhance electrical characteristics of the formed composites as insulators when compared to the styrenated polyester resin used alone. The obtained polymeric composites would be excellent candidates for potential applications. [References: 19]

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<14>

Authors

Thomas NL.

Title

Zinc compounds as flame retardants and smoke suppressants for rigid PVC

Source

Plastics Rubber & Composites. 32(8-9):413-419, 2003.

Abstract

The effect of the concentration of zinc hydroxy-stannate and zinc borate on the fire performance of rigid PVC formulations has been investigated. Fire testing was carried out using cone calorimetry as well as the limiting oxygen index (LOI) test. In addition, further testing was done to check that incorporation of the fire retardant additives did not have any detrimental effects on other properties of the formulated PVC, such as heat stability, colour or impact strength. The results demonstrated that zinc hydroxy-stannate is an excellent fire retardant and smoke suppressant at addition levels of 3 parts per hundred parts of PVC. Zinc borate did not have the excellent fire retardant properties of zinc hydroxy-stannate, but was found to be an efficient and cost-effective smoke suppressant, although the presence of free zinc oxide in the sample affected the thermal stability of the formulation. [References: 14]

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Authors

Harrod SB. Dwoskin LP. Bardo MT.

Title

Lobeline produces conditioned taste avoidance in rats

Source

Pharmacology, Biochemistry & Behavior. 78(1):1-5, 2004 May.

Abstract

Previous results indicate that pretreatment with lobeline attenuates methamphetamine (METH) self-administration in rats, but not by acting as a substitute reinforcer. Given these findings, it has been suggested that lobeline may serve as a useful pharmacotherapy for psychostimulant abuse. However, because lobeline produces emesis and nausea in humans, the present study examined whether lobeline has direct effects on taste avoidance behavior in rats within the same dose range shown previously to decrease METH self-administration. Two experiments utilized a Pavlovian conditioning procedure to determine if lobeline produces conditioned taste avoidance (CTA) in rats. In Experiments 1 and 2, rats consumed either

novel milk or salt solutions, respectively, and within 10 min, were injected with lobeline (0.3-3.0 mg/kg) or METH (0.3-3.0 mg/kg). A single-bottle test conducted 48 h after flavor-drug pairings indicated that the dose of lobeline that reduced METH self-administration in a previous study (i.e., 3.0 mg/kg) also produced reliable CTA for milk and salt solution. These findings suggest a need to develop lobeline analogs that reduce METH self-administration, but do not produce CTA following the consumption of a novel solution. (C) 2004 Published by Elsevier Inc.

[References: 20]

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~~<16>~~
Authors

Klein LC, Stine MM, Vandenbergh DJ, Whetzel CA, Kamens HM.

Title

Sex differences in voluntary oral nicotine consumption by adolescent mice: a dose-response experiment

Source

Pharmacology, Biochemistry & Behavior. 78(1):13-25, 2004 May.

Abstract

Recent studies with adolescent rodents offer valuable information regarding the neurochemical and behavioral effects of adolescent nicotine exposure. One hundred twenty-one male and 125 female adolescent (35 days of age) C57BL/6J mice were tested for voluntary nicotine consumption by providing 24-h access to both saccharin-only (SAC) and one of six nicotine-containing solutions [10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 200 ug (-)-freebase nicotine/ml in 2% SAC] in the home cage for 7 days. Although males and females drank similar volumes (ml) of nicotine, the female mice consumed more nicotine adjusted for body weight (mg/kg) and as a percentage of total fluid intake than did the male mice. In contrast, there was no sex difference in overall serum cotinine levels (adjusted for liver weight). For all mice, nicotine consumption and serum cotinine levels increased in a dose-dependent manner, and the volume of nicotine intake (ml), percent nicotine intake, and nicotine dosage (mg/kg) on the last day of the experiment were positively correlated with cotinine levels. Cotinine levels were inversely related to body weight only for females. Sex differences in nicotine consumption, but not in cotinine levels, suggest sex differences in pharmacokinetic processes that may contribute to oral nicotine consumption behavior during peradolescence. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. [References: 70]

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<17>

Authors

Foltin RW, Haney M.

Title

Intranasal cocaine in humans: acute tolerance, cardiovascular and subjective effects

Source

Pharmacology, Biochemistry & Behavior. 78(1):93-101, 2004 May.

Abstract

Although recent research has focused on "crack" cocaine, the majority of the cocaine users in the United States insufflate ("snort") cocaine rather than smoke it. Furthermore, the intranasal route of administration is often the first way that many cocaine-dependent individuals used cocaine.

Numerous studies have reported on the effects of repeated doses of smoked or intravenous cocaine, the relationship between cocaine plasma level and cocaine's effects, and the development of acute tolerance to smoked or intravenous cocaine. Significantly less information is available about similar effects of intranasal cocaine. The purpose of this study was to determine the dose-dependent effects of repeated intranasal cocaine in humans. Ten experienced male cocaine users were admitted to the hospital on two separate occasions for four days each, with a minimal two-week interval between admissions. During each admission, an intranasal cocaine (0.06, 0.34, 0.69, and 1.37 mg/kg) dose-response curve was determined during four laboratory sessions: Two administrations of the same cocaine dose occurred each session at 40-min intervals. Intranasal cocaine produced dose-related increases in ratings of "positive" drug effects, heart rate, and blood pressure. Plasma cocaine levels peaked following the second cocaine insufflation of each session, while metabolite levels increased during each session. Although the plasma cocaine level approximately doubled following the second cocaine administration, the ratings of positive drug effects, heart rate, and blood pressure did not increase after the second cocaine administration. These data demonstrate that, as observed with smoked and intravenous cocaine, acute within-session tolerance develops during repeated intranasal cocaine administration. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. [References: 44]

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~~18~~
Authors

Vazquez-Palacios G. Bonilla-Jaime H. Velazquez-Moctezuma J.

Title

Antidepressant-like effects of the acute and chronic administration of nicotine in the rat forced swimming test and its interaction with fluoxetine

Source

Pharmacology, Biochemistry & Behavior. 78(1):165-169, 2004 May.

Abstract

An antidepressant action of nicotine (NIC) has recently been suggested. Fluoxetine, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, is currently the most widely used antidepressant. In the present study, we analyzed the effects of the administration of NIC, fluoxetine (FLX), and the combination of both drugs given acutely, subchronically, and chronically as well as 7 days after chronic administration of these drugs on the forced swim test. Results showed that NIC induced a significant reduction of the time in immobility during the forced swim test (antidepressant effect); with a concomitant increase in swimming activity (serotonergic activation), after acute administration. These effects remain the same after subchronic and chronic administration. FLX failed to induce any effect after acute administration but did induce a significant decrease of immobility and an increase of swimming after subchronic administration. The effect of the chronic administration was significantly larger compared to subchronic administration. The combination of both drugs induced a larger effect than that observed after a single administration but only after subchronic treatment. No effect was observed after the end of the 7-day treatments. Data suggest that NIC has an antidepressant action that is expressed faster than FLX but remains the same later. Thus, cholinergic-serotonergic interactions could play an important role in the treatment of depression. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

[References: 41]

Publication Type
Article

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<19>

Authors

Pan CS. Qi YF. Wu SY. Jiang W. Li GZ. Tang CS.

Title

The role of adrenomedullin and its receptor system in cardiovascular calcification of rat induced by Vitamin D-3 plus nicotine

Source

Peptides. 25(4):601-608, 2004 Apr.

Abstract

Adrenomedullin (ADM) is a potent vasodilatory peptide which regulates blood pressure, cell growth and bone formation. Our work was aimed to explore the production of ADM, changes and pathophysiological significance of ADM mRNA and ADM receptor components-calcitonin receptor like receptor (CRLR) and receptor activity modifying proteins (RAMPs) mRNA in calcified myocardium and aorta of rats induced by Vitamin D-3 plus nicotine.

Contents of ADM in plasma, myocardium and aorta were measured by radioimmunoassay (RIA). The amount of ADM, CRLR and RAMPs mRNA was determined by semi-quantitative RT-PCR. The calcium content and alkaline phosphatase activity in myocardium and aorta of rats were measured. The results showed that the contents of calcium in calcified myocardium and aorta were increased by 3.5- and 6-fold (all $P < 0.01$), respectively, and alkaline phosphatases activity in calcified myocardium and aorta were increased by 66.5 and 82.7% (all $P < 0.01$), respectively, compared with control. Contents of ADM in plasma, myocardium and aorta were increased by 58% ($P < 0.01$), 14.3% ($P < 0.01$) and 27.8% ($P < 0.05$). Furthermore, it was found that the amount of ADM, CRLR and RAMP2 mRNA in calcified myocardium was elevated by 90.6, 157.5 and 119.6% (all $P < 0.01$), RAMP3 mRNA was decreased by 14.1% ($P < 0.01$), respectively, compared with control. The amount of ADM, CRLR, RAMP2 and RAMP3 mRNA in calcified aorta was elevated by 37.7% ($P < 0.01$), 41.4% ($P < 0.01$), 60.1% ($P < 0.05$) and 13% ($P < 0.01$), respectively, compared with control. The elevated level of CRLR and RAMP2 mRNA were in positive correlation with that of ADM mRNA ($r = 0.992$ and 0.882, respectively, $P < 0.01$) in calcified myocardium. The elevated level of CRLR and RAMP3 mRNA were also in positive correlation with that of ADM mRNA ($r = 0.727$, $P < 0.05$ and 0.816, $P < 0.01$, respectively) in calcified aorta. These results demonstrated that calcified myocardium and aorta generated an increased amount of ADM, up-regulated gene expressions of ADM, CRLR and RAMP2 mRNA. While the alteration of RAMP3 mRNA in calcified myocardium and aorta was different. These suggested that ADM and its receptor system might involve in the regulation of calcification in heart and aorta. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. [References: 31]

Publication Type.

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<20>

Authors

Cordero-Erausquin M. Pons S. Faure P. Changeux JP.

Title

Nicotine differentially activates inhibitory and excitatory neurons in the dorsal spinal cord

Source

Pain. 109(3):308-318, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Nicotinic agonists have well-documented antinociceptive properties when administered subcutaneously or intrathecally in mice. However, secondary mild to toxic effects are observed at analgesic doses, as a consequence of the activation of the large family of differentially expressed nicotinic

receptors (nAChRs). In order to elucidate the action of nicotinic agonists on spinal local circuits, we have investigated the expression and function of nAChRs in functionally identified neurons of neonate mice spinal cord. Molecular markers, amplified at the single-cell level by RT-PCR, distinguished two neuronal populations in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord: GABAergic/glycinergic inhibitory interneurons, and calbindin (CA) or NK1 receptor (NK1-R) expressing, excitatory interneurons and projection neurons. The nicotinic response to acetylcholine of single cells was examined, as well as the pattern of expression of nAChR subunit transcripts in the same neuron. Beside the most expressed subunits alpha4, beta2 and alpha7, the alpha2 subunit transcript was found in 19% of neurons, suggesting that agonists targeting alpha2* nAChRs may have specific actions at a spinal level without major supra-spinal effects. Both inhibitory and excitatory neurons responded to nicotinic stimulation, however, the nAChRs involved were markedly different. Whereas GABA/glycine interneurons preferentially expressed alpha4alpha6beta2* nAChRs, alpha3alphabetaalpha7* nAChRs were preferentially expressed by CA or NK1-R expressing neurons. Recorded neurons were also classified by firing pattern, for comparison to results from single-cell RT-PCR studies. Altogether, our results identify distinct sites of action of nicotinic agonists in circuits of the dorsal horn, and lead us closer to an understanding of mechanisms of nicotinic spinal analgesia. (C) 2004 International Association for the Study of Pain. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. [References: 53]

Publication Type

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<21>

Authors

Treister NS. Magalnick D. Woo SB.

Title

Oral mucosal pigmentation secondary to minocycline therapy: Report of two cases and a review of the literature

Source

Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology, & Endodontics. 97(6):718-725, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Minocycline is a semisynthetic broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent that was first introduced into clinical practice in 1967. The most common use of minocycline is for the long-term treatment of acne vulgaris. A well-recognized side effect of minocycline treatment is pigmentation, which has been reported in multiple tissues and fluids including thyroid, skin, nail beds, sclera, bone, and teeth. While there have been several reports of oral pigmentation following minocycline therapy, these have been, for the most part, pigmentation of the underlying bone with the overlying oral mucosa only appearing pigmented. We report two cases of actual pigmented oral mucosal lesions on the hard palate secondary to minocycline therapy with the accompanying histopathology, followed by a discussion of minocycline-induced oral pigmentation and a differential diagnosis of these lesions. [References: 72]

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Authors

Goodsell DS.

Title

The molecular perspective: Nicotine and nitrosamines

Source

Oncologist. 9(3):353-354, 2004.

Publication Type

Article

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<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c22>

<23>

Authors

Strazzullo P. Scalfi L. Branca E. Cairella G. Garbagnati E. Siani A.
Barba G. Rubba P. Mancia G.

Title

Nutrition and prevention of ischemic stroke: present knowledge, limitations and future perspectives [Review]

Source

Nutrition Metabolism & Cardiovascular Diseases. 14(2):97-114, 2004 Apr.

Abstract

Stroke, particularly ischemic stroke, has a major impact on public health due to its high incidence, prevalence and rate of subsequent disability in Italy as in most industrialised countries. Apart from age, many modifiable factors, such as hypertension, smoking, diabetes, dyslipidemia, obesity, physical inactivity, alcohol abuse and hyperhomocysteinemia, have been recognised as playing a role in the pathogenesis of this disease. While appropriate pharmacological therapy has proven effective in the prevention of stroke in particular categories of patients, most of the above mentioned predisposing conditions are amenable to be affected by nutrition. Unequivocal demonstration of a protective or adverse role of single foods and nutrients against the risk of stroke has been however difficult to achieve due to confounding by biological variability, methodological inadequacies in the assessment of individual nutritional habits and difficulty to carry out long-term randomised controlled trials in the nutritional area. Notwithstanding, in several cases, causal relationships could be inferred from case-control and cohort studies in the presence of plausible and reproducible associations, evidence of dose-dependent effects and consistency in the results of different studies. [References: 207]

Publication Type

Review

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<24>

Authors

Al-Tamer Y. Mahmood AA.

Title

Lipid components and fatty acid composition of Iraqi subjects who smoke and consume dairy products

Source

Nutrition Metabolism & Cardiovascular Diseases. 14(2):94-96, 2004 Apr.

Publication Type

Letter

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

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<25>

Authors

Kassam AB. Horowitz M. Chang YF. Peters D.

Title

Altered arterial homeostasis and cerebral aneurysms: A molecular epidemiology study

Source

Neurosurgery. 54(6):1450-1460, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: We hypothesized that patients with intracranial cerebral aneurysms (IAs) harbor a molecular defect in the process responsible for maintaining arterial integrity (arterial homeostasis). In this study, we undertook a preliminary assessment of differential expression of key molecules involved with each phase of homeostasis: arterial flow modulation, arterial tear and repair, and the ensuing extracellular matrix.

METHODS: Key molecules from each phase of the arterial homeostatic process were selected: prostacyclin-stimulating factor, implicated with arterial flow modulation; PNUT and RAI, involved with tissue repair and arterial remodeling; and Type III collagen and fibronectin, which are key constituents of the extracellular matrix. A small sample of the IA dome was harvested at the time of surgical repair from both ruptured and unruptured domes. Pericranial vascular tissue was harvested from a sample of the superficial temporal artery (STA) or occipital artery from aneurysmal and nonaneurysmal patients undergoing craniotomy for unrelated conditions. Statistical analysis examining expression of each marker was performed initially using dichotomous analysis (presence or absence of expression), followed by an assessment of quantitative differences in expression. Initial analysis was restricted to the pair consisting of dome and STA harvested from each individual patient. This was followed by a pooled analysis in which all domes and STAs were respectively pooled.

RESULTS: A total of 86 tissue samples were studied, including 24 IA domes, STA samples from 43 aneurysmal patients, and STA samples from 19 nonaneurysmal patients. We found that the degree of prostacyclin-stimulating factor and RAI expression was reduced in ruptured aneurysm domes when compared with STAs from IA patients (odds ratio, 0.26; 95% confidence interval [0], 0.08-0.89; and odds ratio, 0.18; 95% CI, 0.03-0.94, respectively). Type III collagen expression also was reduced among ruptured domes when compared with STA ($P = 0.042$). These differences were found to be independent of the effects of smoking with adjusted odds ratios of 0.25 (95% CI, 0.08-0.77) and 0.18 (95% CI, 0.04-0.79), respectively, for prostacyclin-stimulating factor and RAI. No statistically significant differences were noted among the unruptured domes.

CONCLUSION: These preliminary data suggest an impaired ability to express proteins responsible for flow modulation and arterial repair within the ruptured domes when compared with control pericranial tissue. The study generates a hypothesis of impaired arterial homeostasis with a reduced ability to modulate hemodynamic flow with perhaps increased microinjury. This is exacerbated further by an impaired molecular ability to repair the vessel wall, culminating in aneurysm rupture. The study has limitations based on the use of pericranial tissue as the control and the relatively small sample size. Nevertheless, this study suggests that altered arterial homeostasis warrants further investigation in hopes of better understanding IA pathogenesis. [References: 11]

Publication Type

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Authors

Risso F. Grilli M. Parodi M. Bado M. Raiteri M. Marchi M.

Title

Nicotine exerts a permissive role on NMDA receptor function in hippocampal noradrenergic terminals

Source

Neuropharmacology. 47(1):65-71, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

The coexistence of nicotinic cholinergic receptors (nAChRs) and of N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptors on the same noradrenergic axon terminals and the nAChR/NMDA receptor cross-talk were investigated by monitoring the release of noradrenaline (NA) evoked in superfused rat hippocampal synaptosomes by (-)-nicotine and NMDA alone or in combination. In medium containing a physiological concentration (1.2 mM) of Mg²⁺, the release of [³H]NA was very slightly increased by NMDA plus glycine, whereas it was significantly enhanced by (-)-nicotine. The (-)-nicotine/NMDA combination elicited supraadditive release which was totally abolished by the nAChR blocker mecamylamine and partly prevented by selectively blocking NMDA receptors. supraadditive [³H]NA release was also observed by exposing synaptosomes to veratrine, but not to ionomycin. The supraadditive release elicited by the (-)-nicotine/NMDA or the veratrine/NMDA combination was sensitive to the protein kinase A/C inhibitor staurosporine and the selective protein kinase A inhibitor H89, but insensitive to the protein kinase C inhibitor Ro 31-8220. It is concluded that (i) release-modulating nAChRs and NMDA receptors coexist on hippocampal noradrenergic axon terminals: and (ii) nicotine permits NMDA receptor activation in the presence of Mg²⁺, possibly because the nicotine-induced influx of Na⁺ depolarizes the nerve ending membrane sufficiently to remove the Mg²⁺ block. (C) 2004 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. [References: 31]

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Authors

Gross DW. Hamm J. Ashworth NL. Quigley D.

Title

Marijuana use and epilepsy - Prevalence in patients of a tertiary care epilepsy center

Source

Neurology. 62(11):2095-2097, 2004 Jun 8.

Abstract

The authors sought to determine the prevalence of marijuana use in patients with epilepsy by performing a telephone survey in a tertiary care epilepsy center. Twenty-one percent of subjects had used marijuana in the past year with the majority of active users reporting beneficial effects on seizures. Twenty-four percent of all subjects believed marijuana was an effective therapy for epilepsy. Despite limited evidence of efficacy, many patients with epilepsy believe marijuana is an effective therapy for epilepsy and are actively using it. [References: 10]

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<28>

Authors

Shoaib M. Lowe AS. Williams SCR.

Title

Imaging localised dynamic changes in the nucleus accumbens following nicotine withdrawal in rats

Source

Abstract

This study utilises pharmacological functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to examine the neurobiological mechanisms through which nicotine produces dependence. Using an established regime to induce physical dependence to nicotine in rats (osmotic minipumps delivering 3.16 mg/kg/day nicotine for 7 days SC), animals were subsequently anaesthetised under urethane and positioned in a stereotaxic frame to allow collection of gradient echo whole brain images with a 4.7-T MRI spectrometer. Rats were initially scanned for 34 min (40 baseline image volumes, 1 volume per 51 s) then challenged with mecamylamine (1.0 mg/kg SC) or saline (1 ml/kg) and scanned for a further 68 min (80 image volumes). Mecamylamine precipitated highly significant positive changes in fMRI blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) contrast that were predominantly localised to the NAc of nicotine-dependent rats. Saline-treated rats challenged with the same dose of mecamylamine exhibited similar but smaller increases in BOLD contrast although such changes were less defined around the NAc. Precipitated withdrawal also elicited statistically significant negative BOLD contrast changes in widespread cortical regions. These findings are consistent with previous neurochemical reports on decreases in dopamine in the NAc during nicotine withdrawal. This fMRI study further highlights the potential and power to image the neurobiological events during nicotine dependence. Crown Copyright (C) 2004 Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. [References: 57]

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<29>

Authors

Hasuike Y. Nakanishi T. Moriguchi R. Otaki Y. Nanami M. Hama Y. Naka M. Miyagawa K. Izumi M. Takamitsu Y.

Title

Accumulation of cyanide and thiocyanate in haemodialysis patients

Source

Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation. 19(6):1474-1479, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Background. Cyanide is a toxic agent, and its detoxification product, thiocyanate, may be a major pathogenetic substance in uraemia. Recent studies examining the myeloperoxidase (MPO)/thiocyanate system have suggested a link between thiocyanate and atherosclerosis. However, inaccuracies in conventional assays for cyanide and thiocyanate have limited the understanding of their metabolism in haemodialysis (HD) patients.

Methods. We used high-performance liquid chromatography to measure cyanide in erythrocytes and thiocyanate in plasma in 43 HD patients and in a group of 46 healthy controls that included 15 current smokers. To clarify the metabolic conversion of cyanide to thiocyanate in uraemic patients, we also measured cysteine and sulfate. We then used stepwise regression analysis to analyse factors that determine erythrocyte cyanide and plasma thiocyanate.

Results. Mean cyanide and thiocyanate were significantly greater in HD patients than in non-smoking controls. However, cyanide was far below lethal concentrations in dialysis patients. Thiocyanate was six to seven times greater in HD patients than in non-smoking controls, and decreases in thiocyanate following dialysis were only 19.3 +/- 3.5%. Multiple regression analysis showed a positive correlation between cyanide and thiocyanate in controls, but a negative correlation in HD patients. In patients, an inverse relationship between thiocyanate and BUN was also observed.

Conclusions. The elevation of thiocyanate in patients undergoing dialysis probably is secondary to both limited efficiency of HD and deranged metabolism of cyanide and thiocyanate. Because thiocyanate is a preferred substrate for MPO, it may play a role in uraemic complications including cardiovascular events. [References: 24]

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<30>

Authors

Camin RMG. Cabezas A. Calero F. Ballarin JA.

Title

Steroid-responsive nephrotic syndrome in IgA nephropathy [Spanish]

Source

Nefrologia. 24(Suppl 3):68-71, 2004.

Abstract

A 46 year old male, smoker of half a packet a day and an alcohol intake of 80 grammes a day, with an unremarkable medical history, was referred to our service in the year 1988 for a study of nephrotic syndrome. He presented normal renal function, without either microhematuria nor hypertension. In blood analysis an albuminemia of 10 g/l and proteinuria of 22 g/d was observed. A first renal biopsy was carried out which indicated minimal change disease. Steroid treatment was started, as a result the nephrotic syndrome disappeared and the blood analysis normalized.

Later he had 4 new outbreaks, all of them steroid-responsive. In 1992 a second renal biopsy was performed after the fourth outbreak and the presence of mild renal failure, that this time indicated a IgA nephropathy. Steroid treatment was tried again, and this time cyclophosphamide was added to try to reduce steroid doses. This result in normalization of renal function and decrease of proteinuria to 2 g/d.

The patient remained stable until 1996 when the fifth outbreak occurred, again with mild renal failure and proteinuria in nephrotic range. Therefore a third renal biopsy was performed, that confirmed the presence of IgA nephropathy, but now with signs of histological progression of the disease.

Following this, he presented five outbreaks in 3 years, all of them steroid-responsive, with decrease of proteinuria although without renal function normalization.

In the year 2000, at his tenth outbreak of nephrotic syndrome it was decided to add cyclosporine to the steroid treatment, achieving the stability of the patient, without further outbreaks until now, with proteinuria of 1.6 g/d and C. creat. 59 ml/min. [References: 12]

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<31>

Authors

Keller HW. Skrabal M. Eliasson UH. Gaither TW.

Title

Tree canopy biodiversity in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: ecological and developmental observations of a new myxomycete species of Diachea

Source

Mycologia. 96(3):537-547, 2004 May-Jun.

Abstract

A survey and inventory of tree canopy biodiversity for cryptogams (myxomycetes, macrofungi, mosses, liverworts, lichens and ferns) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park resulted in the discovery of an undescribed myxomycete species. This taxon is classified in the order Physarales, family Didymiaceae and genus Diachea. A combination of morphological characteristics distinguishes *Diachea arboricola* H.W. Keller & M. Skrabal sp. nov. from all other species in the genus: peridium iridescent gold to silvery gray; stalk reddish orange above and whitish below, filled with crystals; capillitrial threads stiff, dichotomously branched and arising from the tip of the columella; spore ornamentation uniformly covering the entire spore surface, appearing spiny with light microscopy, with scanning electron microscopy as vertical processes with capitate, clustered, spike-like tips. This type of spore ornamentation has not been found in any other *Diachea* species. *Diachea arboricola* is known only from the tree canopy, ranging in height from roughly 3 to 21 m, on three tree species, *Fraxinus americana*, *Juniperus virginiana* and *Quercus alba*. Observations of plasmodial growth and fruiting body development are described based on moist chamber cultures. Tree canopy observations *in situ* suggest that the plasmodium of this species migrates over extensive vertical areas of tree bark. Ecological factors are discussed that include pH of bark substrata. The species description is based on abundant sporangia from 17 different collections. A key to the species of *Diachea* is provided to aid in the identification of this taxon. [References: 26]

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<32>

Authors

Jayaratne ER. Verma TS.

Title

Environmental aerosols and their effect on the Earth's local fair-weather electric field

Source

Meteorology & Atmospheric Physics. 86(3-4):275-280, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

The Earth's local fair-weather electric field is significantly affected by small ions present in the atmosphere. These ions are typically smaller than 0.001 μm and occur in concentrations from 500 to 600 cm^{-3} in air. Attachment to larger aerosol particles may severely decrease the mobility of these atmospheric ions resulting in an increased local electric field. The number concentration of environmental aerosol particles in the size range 0.1 to 5.0 μm was measured with two automatic laser scattering particle counters. The Earth's electric field was monitored with an electric fieldmeter. Measurements were made in clean air and in an environment highly polluted by wood smoke. The electric field was found to be positively correlated to the aerosol number concentration. During one 24-hour period of measurement, the electric field increased from 180 to about 280 V m^{-1} as the number concentration of aerosols larger than 0.1 μm increased from about 2000 to 9000 cm^{-3} . The number concentrations of aerosols larger than 0.1 and 0.3 μm were both found to be positively correlated with the Earth's electric field with correlation coefficients of 70% and 61%, respectively. [References: 14]

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<33>

~~Authors~~

Greig JE. Carnie JA. Tallis GI. Ryan NJ. Tan AG. Gordon IR. Zwolak B. Leydon JA. Guest CS. Hart WG.

~~Title~~

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at the Melbourne Aquarium, April 2000: investigation and case-control studies

~~Source~~

Medical Journal of Australia. 180(11):566-572, 2004 Jun 7.

~~Abstract~~

Objective: To investigate the source and risk factors associated with Australia's largest outbreak of Legionnaires' disease.

Design and setting: Epidemiological and environmental investigation of cases of Legionnaires' disease associated with visits to the Melbourne Aquarium; two case-control studies to confirm the outbreak source and to investigate risk factors for infection, respectively.

Participants: Patients with confirmed Legionnaires' disease who visited the Melbourne Aquarium between 11 and 27 April 2000 were compared (i) with control participants from the community, and (ii) with control participants selected from other visitors to the Aquarium during this period.

Main outcome measures: Risk factors for acquiring Legionnaires' disease.

Results: There were 125 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease caused by Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 associated with the Aquarium; 76% of patients were hospitalised, and four (3.2%) died. The Aquarium cooling towers were contaminated with this organism. Visiting the Aquarium was significantly associated with disease (odds ratio [OR], 207; 95% CI, 73-630). The case-control study indicated that current smoking was a dose-dependent risk (multivariable OR for currently smoking >70 cigarettes/week, 13.5; 95% CI, 5-36), but chronic illness and duration of exposure at the site were not significant risks.

Conclusions: This study showed an association between poorly disinfected cooling towers at the Aquarium and Legionnaires' disease in visitors, and confirmed current smoking as a critical risk factor. The rapid response, publicity, and widespread urinary antigen testing may have resulted in detection of milder cases and contributed to the relatively low apparent morbidity and mortality rates. The urinary antigen test allows rapid identification of cases and may be changing the severity of illness recognised as Legionnaires' disease and altering who is considered at risk. [References: 27]

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<34>

~~Authors~~

Mur C. Claria J. Rodela S. Lario S. Campistol JM. Titos E. Inigo P. Cases A. Abian J. Esmatjes E.

~~Title~~

Cigarette smoke concentrate increases 8-epi-PGF(2 alpha) and TGF beta(1) secretion in rat mesangial cells

~~Source~~

Life Sciences. 75(5):611-621, 2004 Jun 18.

~~Abstract~~

Epidemiological studies have shown that cigarette smoke, an oxidant agent, is a risk factor for the development of diabetic nephropathy (DN), in which pathogenesis transforming growth factor beta(1) (TGFbeta(1)) plays a

key role. In our experimental model we exposed mesangial cell cultures to cigarette smoke concentrate (CSC) to study the effect of smoking on the pathogenesis of DN. Thus, we analyzed the effect of CSC on TGFbeta(1) and lipid peroxidation (8-epi-PGF(2alpha)) in rat mesangial cells. Furthermore, since the protein kinase C (PKC) pathway appears to be a key factor for the enhanced production of TGFbeta(1), we also analyzed the effect of the selective PKCbeta inhibitor LY379196 on TGFbeta(1) response to CSC. CSC induced an increase of both TGFbeta(1) and 8-epi-PGF(2) compared to basal conditions (5 mM glucose). The CSC-induced increase in TGFbeta1 secretion was significantly suppressed by LY379196. These data suggest that smoking could increase TGFbeta(1) production, probably due to oxidative stress and PKCbeta activation. This finding supports the concept that smoking is a risk factor for DN development. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. [References: 37]

Publication Type

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<35>

Authors

Yeh ML. Chen HH. So EC. Liu CF.

Title

A study of serum malondialdehyde and interleukin-6 levels in young women with dysmenorrhea in Taiwan

Source

Life Sciences. 75(6):669-673, 2004 Jun 25.

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine whether the symptoms of dysmenorrhea in young women were related to serum malondialdehyde (MDA) and interleukin-6 (IL-6) levels. Ninety-four non-smoking and non-drinking female subjects without serious disease from a nursing college in Taiwan were divided into two groups. Group 1 consisted of 51 subjects without dysmenorrheal, and Group 2 of 43 subjects with dysmenorrheal symptom. All subjects were provided informed consent. Results showed that the serum levels of MDA and of IL-6 were significantly different between the two groups ($P < 0.05$) and ($P < 0.005$), respectively. We conclude that the pathological mechanism of dysmenorrhea is mediated by oxidative stress caused by the action of cytokine. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. [References: 14]

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Article

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<36>

Authors

Yokoyama H. Aoki T. Imahori M. Kuramitsu M.

Title

Subclinical atherosclerosis is increased in type 2 diabetic patients with microalbuminuria evaluated by intima-media thickness and pulse wave velocity

Source

Kidney International. 66(1):448-454, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

Background. Microalbuminuria appears to be a risk marker for atherosclerosis. However, little is known about the direct association between microalbuminuria and vascular wall properties.

Methods. Subjects were 306 type 2 diabetic patients with normoalbuminuria ($N = 200$) and microalbuminuria ($N = 106$). Those who had macroalbuminuria,

atherosclerotic vascular disease, and/or ankle brachial index being less than 0.9 were not included. Brachial-ankle pulse wave velocity (PWV) was measured by automatic oscillometric method. Intima-media thickness (IMT) of the common carotid artery was measured using high-resolution B-mode ultrasonography and a computerized image-analyzing system.

Results. Average IMT, maximum IMT, and PWV were significantly higher in patients with microalbuminuria than in patients with normoalbuminuria. Both average and maximum IMT increased significantly as albuminuria increased in the microalbuminuric range. Average IMT and maximum IMT correlated significantly with PWV ($P < 0.0001$), although some patients exhibited increased levels of only PWV or IMT. By a multiple linear regression, age and albuminuria were independent predictors of IMT and PWV. Waist circumference was an independent predictor of IMT. Hypertension and hemoglobin A_{1c} (HbA_{1c}) were independent predictors of PWV. After adjustment for conventional cardiovascular risk factors including age, sex, waist circumference, HbA_{1c}, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and smoking, albuminuria revealed a significant association with average IMT, maximum IMT, and PWV ($P < 0.05$, $P < 0.0001$, and $P < 0.05$, respectively).

Conclusion. A slight elevation of albuminuria is a significant determinant of IMT and PWV independent of conventional cardiovascular risk factors in type 2 diabetic patients with no clinical nephropathy or any vascular diseases. This significant association might point to a link in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and diabetic nephropathy. [References: 42]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Timaran CH, Ohki T, Rhee SJ, Veith FJ, Gargiulo NJ, Toriumi H, Malas MB, Suggs WD, Wain RA, Lipsitz EC.

Title

Predicting aneurysm enlargement in patients with persistent type II endoleaks

Source

Journal of Vascular Surgery. 39(6):1157-1162, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Objective: The clinical significance of type II endoleaks is not well understood. Some evidence, however, indicates that some type II endoleaks might result in aneurysm enlargement and rupture. To identify factors that might contribute to aneurysm expansion, we analyzed the influence of several variables on aneurysm growth in patients with persistent type II endoleaks after endovascular aortic aneurysm repair (EVAR).

Methods: In a series of 348 EVARs performed during a 10-year period, 32 patients (9.2%) developed type II endoleaks that persisted for more than 6 months. Variables analyzed included those defined by the reporting standards for EVAR (SVS/AAVS) as well as other endoleak characteristics. Univariate, receiver operating characteristic curve, and Cox regression analyses were used to determine the association between variables and aneurysm enlargement.

Results: The median follow-up period was 26.5 months (range, 6-88 months). Thirteen patients (41%) had aneurysm enlargement by 5 mm or more (median increase in diameter, 10 mm), whereas 19 (59%) had stable or shrinking aneurysm diameter. Univariate and Cox regression analyses identified the maximum diameter of the endoleak cavity, ie, the size of the nidus as defined on contrast computed tomography scan, as a significant predictor for aneurysm enlargement (relative risk, 1.12; 95% confidence interval, 1.04-1.19; $P = .001$). The median size of the nidus was 23 mm (range, 13-40 mm) in patients with aneurysm enlargement and 8 mm (range, 5-25 mm) in

those without expansion (Mann-Whitney U test, $P < .001$). Moreover, receiver operating characteristic curve and Cox regression analyses showed that a maximum nidus diameter greater than 15 mm was particularly associated with an increased risk of aneurysm enlargement (relative risk, 11.1; 95% confidence interval, 1.4-85.8; $P = .02$). Other risk factors including gender, smoking history, hypertension, need of anticoagulation, aneurysm diameter, type of endograft used, and number or type of collateral vessels were not significant predictors of aneurysm enlargement.

Conclusions. In patients with persistent type II endoleaks after EVAR, the maximum diameter of the endoleak cavity or nidus is an important predictor of aneurysm growth and might indicate the need for more aggressive surveillance as well as earlier treatment. [References: 22]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Fillinger MF. Racusin J. Baker RK. Cronenwett JL. Teitelbaum A. Schermerhorn ML. Zwolak RM. Powell RJ. Walsh DB. Rzucidlo EM.

Title

Anatomic characteristics of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm on conventional CT scans: Implications for rupture risk

Source

Journal of Vascular Surgery. 39(6):1243-1252, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Objective: The purpose of this study was to analyze anatomic characteristics of patients with ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAAs), with conventional two-dimensional computed tomography (CT), including comparison with-control subjects matched for age, gender, and size.

Methods: Records were reviewed to identify all CT scans obtained at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center or referring hospitals before emergency AAA repair performed because of rupture or acute severe pain (RUP group). CT scans obtained before elective AAA repair (ELEC group) were reviewed for age and gender match with patients in the RUP group. More than 40 variables were measured on each CT scan. Aneurysm diameter matching was achieved by consecutively deleting the largest RUP scan and the smallest ELEC scan to prevent bias.

Results. CT scans were analyzed for 259 patients with AAAs: 122 RUP and 137 ELEC. Patients were well matched for age, gender, and other demographic variables or risk factors. Maximum AAA diameter was significantly different in comparisons of all patients (RUP, 6.5 ± 2 cm vs ELEC, 5.6 ± 1 cm; $P < .0001$), and mean diameter of ruptured AAAs P , was 5 mm smaller in female patients (6.1 ± 2 cm vs 6.6 ± 2 cm; $P = .007$). Two hundred patients were matched for diameter, gender, and age (100 from each group; maximum AAA diameter, 6.0 ± 1 cm vs 6.0 ± 1 cm). Analysis of diameter-matched AAAs indicated that most variables were statistically similar in the two groups, including infrarenal neck length (17 ± 1 mm vs 19 ± 1 mm; $P = .3$), maximum thrombus thickness (25 ± 1 mm vs 23 ± 1 mm, $P = .4$), and indices of body habitus, such as [(maximum AAA diameter)/(normal suprarenal aorta diameter)] or [(maximum AAA diameter)/(L3 transverse diameter)]. Multivariate analysis controlling for gender indicated that the most significant variables for rupture were aortic tortuosity (odds ratio [OR] 3.3, indicating greater risk with no or mild tortuosity), diameter asymmetry (OR, 3.2 for a 1-cm difference in major-minor axis), and current smoking (OR, 2.7, with the greater risk in current smokers).

Conclusions: When matched for age, gender, and diameter, ruptured AAAs tend to be less tortuous, yet have greater cross-sectional diameter asymmetry. On conventional two-dimensional CT axial sections, it appears that when diameter asymmetry is associated with low aortic tortuosity, the larger diameter on axial sections more accurately reflects rupture risk, and when diameter asymmetry is associated with moderate or severe aortic tortuosity, the smaller diameter on axial sections more accurately reflects rupture risk. Current smoking is significantly associated with rupture, even when controlling for gender and AAA anatomy. [References: 34]

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<39>

Authors
Charlton A.

Title
Medicinal uses of tobacco in history

Source
Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. 97(6):292-296, 2004 Jun.

Publication Type
Article

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c39>

<40>

Authors
Simpson CD. Dills RL. Katz BS. Kalman DA.

Title
Determination of levoglucosan in atmospheric fine particulate matter

Source
Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association. 54(6):689-694, 2004 Jun.

Abstract
A microanalytical method suitable for the quantitative determination of the sugar anhydride levoglucosan in low-volume samples of atmospheric fine particulate matter (PM) has been developed and validated. The method incorporates two sugar anhydrides as quality control standards. The recovery standard sedoheptulose (2,7-anhydro-beta-D-altro-heptulopyranose) in 20 μL solvent is added onto samples of the atmospheric fine PM and aged for 1 hr before ultrasonic extraction with ethylacetate/triethylamine. The extract is reduced in volume, an internal standard is added (1,5-anhydro-D-mannitol), and a portion of the extract is derivatized with 10% by volume N-trimethylsilylimidazole. The derivatized extract is analyzed by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). The recovery of levoglucosan using this procedure was 69 +/- 6% from five filters amended with 2 μg levoglucosan, and the reproducibility of the assay is 9%. The limit of detection is ~0.1 μg/mL, which is equivalent to similar to 3.5 ng/m³ for a 10 L/min sampler or similar to 8.7 ng/m³ for a 4 L/min personal sampler (assuming 24-hr integrated samples). We demonstrated that levoglucosan concentrations in collocated samples (expressed as ng/m³) were identical irrespective of whether samples were collected by PM with aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 2.5 μm or PM with aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 μm impactors. It was also demonstrated that X-ray fluorescence analysis of samples of atmospheric PM, before levoglucosan determinations, did not alter the levels of levoglucosan. [References: 18]

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<41>

Authors

McCarthy DM. Brown SA.

Title

Changes in alcohol involvement, cognitions and drinking and driving behavior for youth after they obtain a driver's license

Source

Journal of Studies on Alcohol. 65(3):289-296, 2004 May.

Abstract

Objective: This study tested whether obtaining a driver's license was associated with increases in alcohol and other drug involvement and changes in alcohol-related cognitions for youth, and whether drinking and driving behavior increased with driving experience. Method: Confidential, anonymous surveys were conducted at two time points (fall, spring) with students at four high schools in San Diego county (N = 2 865. 51% female). Data were collected on alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use, license status, alcohol use by peers, attitudes towards drinking, and driving, and drinking and driving behaviors. Results: Nondrivers (60%), new drivers (obtained a license between Time 1 and Time 2) and experienced drivers (26%) were compared on study variables at both time points and over time. Initially obtaining a driver's license was associated with increased frequency of substance use. Results were not significant for quantity of alcohol use, frequency of heavy drinking or perceived alcohol use norms. Attitudes towards drinking and driving reflected an increase in the perceived dangerousness of this behavior for new drivers. Drinking and driving behavior during the last 30 days increased with increased driving experience. Conclusions: The results indicate a number of changes in substance involvement after obtaining a driver's license. However, initially this transition may also indicate a period of protection against drinking and driving. These results may have implications for the target and content of drinking and driving interventions. [References: 25]

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<42>

Authors

Marton K. Boros I. Fejerdy P. Madlena M.

Title

Evaluation of unstimulated flow rates of whole and palatal saliva in healthy patients wearing complete dentures and in patients with Sjogren's syndrome

Source

Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. 91(6):577-581, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Statement of problem. The palate and upper lip are the regions of oral mucosa covered with the least amount of saliva. These areas are important for maxillary denture retention and stability. Thus, patients with xerostomia or hyposalivation may have problems with the stability of maxillary complete dentures.

Purpose. The purpose of this study was to compare the unstimulated whole saliva (UWS) and palatal saliva (PS) flow rates of healthy patients wearing complete dentures and patients with Sjogren's syndrome (SS) and to determine whether xerostomia or hyposalivation has a negative influence on maxillary complete denture stability. A further aim was to determine the influence of new complete dentures on UWS and PS flow rates in healthy

individuals.

Material and methods. Thirty-five complete denture wearers, 24 healthy individuals (controls) and 11 patients who fulfilled the diagnostic criteria for primary Sjogren's syndrome (as proposed by the European Community Study Group) were investigated. All participants were questioned about possible subjective oral complaints (xerostomia or instability of the dentures) through use of a standardized questionnaire. In the first part of the study, UWS and PS flow rates of the healthy subjects (controls) and of the SS patients were measured at the initial visit. The flow rate of UWS (mL/min) was collected by the "spitting" method; saliva was collected into preweighed vessels for 5 minutes while subjects were seated in an upright position. Patients were asked to refrain from smoking, eating, and drinking for 2 hours prior to the test session, to avoid swallowing, and to make as few movements as possible during the procedure. The PS flow rate (μL/min/cm²) was measured using previously weighed filter paper discs placed bilaterally in the region of the maxillary second molars, 15 mm palatally from the edentulous ridge, for 30 seconds. The measuring vessels and paper discs were weighed before and after each collection. In the second part of the study, new complete dentures were fabricated for healthy patients. Flow rates of UWS and PS were measured 7 days after the insertion to compare data with prefabrication values. Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon rank Sum tests and chi-square test were used to analyze the data (alpha = .05).

Results. The UWS flow rates were significantly lower in SS patients compared to healthy controls (0.36 +/- 0.33 vs 0.09 +/- 0.11 mL/min, P < .05), yet the PS flow rate for both groups was not significantly different. Although every SS patient had xerostomia, and 8 out of 11 had hyposalivation, no patient complained about denture instability. Neither UWS flow rate (0.36 +/- 0.33 mL/min and 0.39 +/- 0.35 mL/min) nor PS flow rate (1.66 +/- 0.99 μL/cm²/min and 1.86 +/- 0.45 μL/cm²/min) was different from the preinsertion values after 1 week of new denture insertion in healthy patients.

Conclusion. Palatal mucous saliva may help stabilize the maxillary complete denture in patients with hyposalivation. The results suggest that neither UWS or PS flow rate are influenced by the placement of new dentures in complete denture wearers. [References: 22]

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<43>

Authors

Smith VC. Zupancic JAF. McCormick MC. Croen LA. Greene J. Escobar GJ.
Richardson DK.

Title

Rehospitalization in the first year of life among infants with
bronchopulmonary dysplasia

Source

Journal of Pediatrics. 144(6):799-803, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Objective To describe rates and identify risk factors for
rehospitalization during the first year of life among infants with
bronchopulmonary dysplasia, (BPD).

Study design This was a retrospective cohort study of infants born at a gestational age (GA) <33 weeks, between 1995 and 1999. BPD was defined as requirement of supplemental oxygen and/or mechanical ventilation at 36 weeks' corrected GA. The outcome was rehospitalization for any reason before first birthday.

Results In the first year of life, 118 of 238 (49%) infants with BPD were rehospitalized, more than twice the rate of rehospitalization of the non-BPD population, which was 309 of 1359 (23%) ($P = <.0001$). No measured factor discriminated between those infants with BPD who were and were not rehospitalized, even when only rehospitalizations for respiratory diagnoses were considered.

Conclusions Among premature infants, BPD substantially increases the risk of rehospitalization during the first year of life. Neither demographic nor physiologic factors predicted rehospitalization among the infants with BPD. Other factors, such as air quality of home environment, passive smoking exposure, respiratory syncytial virus prophylaxis, breast-feeding status, and/or parenting and primary care management styles, should be examined in future studies. [References: 26]

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Authors

Ferayorni AJ. Gunville CF. Grow WA.

Title

Nicotine decreases agrin signaling and acetylcholine receptor clustering in C2C12 myotube culture

Source

Journal of Neurobiology. 60(1):51-60, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

The clustering of acetylcholine receptors (AChRs) in skeletal muscle fibers is a critical event in neuromuscular synaptogenesis. AChRs in concert with other molecules form postsynaptic scaffolds in response to agrin released from motor neurons as motor neurons near skeletal muscle fibers in development. Agrin drives an intracellular signaling pathway that precedes AChR clustering and includes the tyrosine phosphorylation of AChRs. In C2C12 myotube culture, agrin application stimulates the agrin signaling pathway and AChR clustering. Previous studies have determined that the frequency of spontaneous AChR clustering is decreased and AChRs are partially inactivated when bound by the acetylcholine agonist nicotine. We hypothesized that nicotine interferes with AChR clustering and consequent postsynaptic scaffold formation. In the present study, C2C12 myoblasts were cultured with growth medium to stimulate proliferation and then differentiation medium to stimulate fusion into myotubes. They were bathed in a physiologically relevant concentration of nicotine and then subject to agrin treatment after myotube formation. Our results demonstrate that nicotine decreases agrin-induced tyrosine phosphorylation of AChRs and decreases the frequency of spontaneous as well as agrin-induced AChR clustering. We conclude that nicotine interferes with postsynaptic scaffold formation by preventing the tyrosine phosphorylation of AChRs, an agrin signaling event that precedes AChR clustering. (C) 2004 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. [References: 46]

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Authors

Sokal J. Messias E. Dickerson FB. Kreyenbuhl A. Brown CH. Goldberg RW. Dixon LB.

Title

Comorbidity of medical illnesses among adults with serious mental illness

who are receiving community psychiatric services

Source

Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease. 192(6):421-427, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

We studied the medical comorbidity among individuals with serious mental illness who were receiving community-based psychiatric treatment. A total of 200 psychiatric outpatients divided between those with schizophrenia and affective disorder diagnoses were recruited from samples receiving outpatient care at two psychiatric centers. Interviews used questions from national health surveys. Logistic regression analyses compared responses from each sample with those of matched subsets of individuals from the general population. Both patient groups had greater odds of having many medical conditions. The odds of respiratory illnesses remained elevated in the patient groups even after controlling for smoking, as did the odds of diabetes in the affective disorder group after controlling for weight. Persons with serious mental illness who are in outpatient care are more likely to have comorbid medical conditions than persons in the general population. The odds of diabetes, lung diseases, and liver problems are particularly elevated. These findings underscore the need for intensified preventive health interventions and medical services for this population.

[References: 18]

Publication Type

Article

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<46>

Authors

Chang KT, Huang RF

Title

Development and characterization of jet-injected vee-gutter

Source

JOURNAL OF MECHANICS. 20(1):77-83, 2004 Mar.

Abstract

The vee-gutter which was conventionally used in a combustor for flame holding, was re-designed by employing the unsteady Coanda effect to inject fluids periodically into near wake of the vee-gutter. Fluidic targets were developed to induce self-sustained transverse oscillation of slit-jet. The self-sustained oscillating jet was conducted through passages and injected into the near wake of the vee-gutter. The behaviors and frequency characteristics of the slit-jet in the oscillation cavity and the turbulence properties in the wake were studied experimentally in a wind-tunnel by using the smoke-wire flow visualization technique and the hot-wire anemometer. The oscillation frequencies of the presently developed jet-injection vee-gutter were about 25 to 40 times higher than that of the conventionally used fluidic flowmeter. By estimating the Lagrangian integral time scale and employing the Taylor's frozen flow hypothesis, the integral length scales of turbulence fluctuations were calculated. The results showed that the integral length scales of turbulences of the jet-injected vee-gutter were significantly smaller than their counter parts of the conventional vee-gutter, which indicated the effects of vortex stretching induced by the periodic jet injection. The modifications of turbulence properties were presented and discussed.

[References: 25]

Publication Type

Article

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c46>

<47>

Authors

Mehanna HM. Kuo T. Chaplin J. Taylor G. Morton RP.

Title

Fungal laryngitis in immunocompetent patients

Source

Journal of Laryngology & Otology. 118(5):379-381, 2004 May.

Abstract

The diagnosis of fungal laryngitis is often overlooked in systemically immunocompetent patients because it is commonly considered a disease of the immunocompromised, and because it often mimics, clinically and histologically, more common and more serious conditions e.g. leukoplakia. A high index of suspicion is required to make the diagnosis, and should be considered in any immunocompetent patient with persistent or refractory laryngitis and factors predisposing to local mucosal barrier impairment e.g. gastropharyngeal reflux, smoking or inhaled steroid use. In such cases, demonstration of hyperkeratosis, particularly if associated with intraepithelial neutrophils, on biopsy should trigger a search for fungal elements using specialized stains. Prolonged treatment by systemic antimycotics is required. Treatment should also include the elimination of any predisposing factors, as failure to do so may result in difficulty with disease eradication or recurrence of the condition. [References: 8]

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<48>

Authors

Said A. Williams J. Holden J. Remington P. Gangnon R. Musat A. Lucey
MR.

Title

Model for end stage liver disease score predicts mortality across a broad spectrum of liver disease

Source

Journal of Hepatology. 40(6):897-903, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Background/Aims: The utility of the model for end stage liver disease (MELD) score in non-transplant patients, particularly in those with less severe chronic liver disease remains uncertain. We studied and compared the predictive abilities of the MELD score and the Child-Turcotte-Pugh (CTP) score for intermediate (1-year) and long-term (5-year) mortality.

Methods: One thousand six hundred and eleven patients with chronic liver disease were studied. Observed and predicted survival curves were plotted to evaluate the predictive ability of the MELD score for survival.

Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves was used to compare the MELD and CTP score. A multivariable model was constructed to examine predictors of mortality.

Results: The MELD score was a good predictor of 1-year mortality in chronic liver disease (c-statistics for all subgroups greater than or equal to 0.75) and of 3- and 6-month mortality in alcoholic hepatitis (c-statistic greater than or equal to 0.83). The CTP score had similar predictive abilities as the MELD. Hepatic encephalopathy was a strong independent predictor of death (Hazard ratio-2.8, P < 0.0001).

Conclusions: The MELD score is a valid prognostic score for intermediate term mortality in a heterogeneous population with chronic liver disease although the CTP score is equivalent in predicting survival. Inclusion of hepatic encephalopathy adds additional prognostic value to the MELD score. (C) 2004 European Association for the Study of the Liver. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. [References: 29]

Publication Type

Article

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<49>

Authors

Davison PS. Roberts DL. Arnold RT. Colvile RN.

Title

Estimating the direct radiative forcing due to haze from the 1997 forest fires in Indonesia - art. no. D10207

Source

Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres. 109(D10):10207, 2004 May 28.

Abstract

The El Nino event of 1997-1998 caused a severe reduction of rainfall in Indonesia that promoted the spread of forest fires, leading to a pervasive haze in the region. Here we use fire coverage data from the 1997 World Fire Atlas with a review of other available data and literature to estimate the distribution of particulate emissions from August to November 1997 and the particle size and radiative properties. Our preferred estimate of the total particulate emissions is approximately 41 Tg. The emissions have been used to drive an atmospheric model to simulate the distribution of the haze and its direct radiative effect, with and without allowing for the effects of the smoke on the atmospheric evolution. Model diagnostics of the aerosol and its radiative impact are compared with measurements and output from other models. Large decreases in the incident solar flux at the surface are obtained in the region. The simulated global mean shortwave radiative forcing at the top of the atmosphere, averaged over the 4 months, is -0.32 Wm(-2). The accuracy of this calculation is discussed, and the importance of the Indonesian fires in particular and of biomass burning in general is assessed. [References: 55]

Publication Type

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<50>

Authors

Riley EH. Inui TS. Kleinman K. Connnelly MT.

Title

Differential association of modifiable health behaviors with hot flashes in perimenopausal and postmenopausal women

Source

Journal of General Internal Medicine. 19(7):740-746, 2004 Jul

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: To determine the association of modifiable factors, such as smoking, body mass index, and alcohol use, with hot flashes, and to ascertain whether the association with hot flashes varies by menopausal stage.

DESIGN: A written survey completed by perimenopausal and postmenopausal women enrolling in a randomized, controlled trial of a menopause risk management program in 1999. Survey items included questions on demographics, health status, and health behaviors.

SETTING: A Massachusetts-based health maintenance organization.

PATIENTS/PARTICIPANTS: Female members, age 40 to 65, excluding women with chronic conditions precluding study participation, were randomly selected from an automated medical record system.

MEASUREMENTS AND MAIN RESULTS: The majority of the 287 postmenopausal and 468 perimenopausal women participating in the study were white, college educated, and nonsmoking. Approximately 30% of both groups reported

experiencing hot flashes. Separate multivariable logistic regression models were developed for perimenopausal and postmenopausal women to identify correlates of reporting any versus no hot flashes. After controlling for age, race, oral contraceptive use, hormone replacement therapy use, and depression, correlates of hot flashes in perimenopausal women were body mass index greater than or equal to 25 kg/m² (odds ratio [OR], 2.00; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.28 to 3.12) and alcohol use of 1 to 5 drinks per week (OR, 0.52; 95% CI, 0.31 to 0.86). The only significant correlate of hot flashes in the postmenopausal population was high dietary fat intake (OR, 0.35; 95% CI, 0.15 to 0.81).

CONCLUSION: Although study respondents were from similar sociodemographic groups and received their health care in the same health maintenance organization, modifiable factors associated with hot flashes were different for perimenopausal and postmenopausal women. [References: 59]

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Article

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<51>

Authors

Estevao LRM. Nascimento RSV. Le Bras M. Delobel R.

Title

Spent refinery catalyst as a flame retardancy enhancer in an intumescence polymeric system

Source

Journal of Fire Sciences. 22(3):211-227, 2004 May.

Abstract

Spent oil refinery catalyst from the FCC unit has been evaluated as an additive in intumescence flame retardant formulations containing ammonium polyphosphate (APP) and pentaerythritol (PER) in an ethylene-butyl acrylate-maleic anhydride terpolymer matrix. UL-94, LOI and cone calorimetry analyses were carried out and the results show that the addition of small amounts of the catalyst to the additive system greatly enhances flame retardancy performance of the intumescence formulations. All materials containing intumescence formulations were V0 rated according to the UL-94 standard. A ten unit increase in LOI values was observed by the addition of 5 wt.% of catalyst to the APP/PER formulations, and significant lowering in the rate of heat release, total heat evolved, smoke, CO and CO₂ emission were detected by cone calorimetry. [References: 25]

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<52>

Authors

Weil ED. Levchik S.

Title

Current practice and recent commercial developments in flame retardancy of polyamides

Source

Journal of Fire Sciences. 22(3):251-264, 2004 May.

Abstract

This review presents the currently used or promising flame retardant systems for the aliphatic polyamides. The largest applications are in electrical parts, with smaller usage in automotive and textiles. A polycyclic chlorohydrocarbon, DECHLORANE PLUS, is employed in low smoke formulations. Decabromodiphenyl ether has major use in polyamide 6.

Alternative brominated additives include decabromodiphenylethane, polybrominated phenylindane, polymeric dibromophenylene oxide, polybrominated polystyrene and oligomeric glycidyl ethers of tetrabromobisphenol A, and polypentabromobenzyl acrylate. In non-reinforced polyamide 6, melamine cyanurate is effective. With glass reinforcements, some melamine pyro- or polyphosphates are useful. Polyamide 6 can be flame retarded with high loadings of magnesium hydroxide. Stabilized and coated red phosphorus is used in Europe and the Far East. A recent development is the use of aluminum dialkylphosphinate. In textile fiber, there has been some development of a built-in phosphinate. Polyamide fabric can be flame retarded with a thioureaformaldehyde resin finish. [References: 31]

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Article

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<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c52>

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Authors

Ponto LLB. O'Leary DS. Koeppel J. Block RL. Watkins GL. Richmond FCW.
Word CA. Clermont DA. Schmitt BA. Hichwo RD.

Title

Effect of acute marijuana on cardiovascular function and central nervous system pharmacokinetics of [O-15]water: Effect in occasional and chronic users

Source

Journal of Clinical Pharmacology. 44(7):751-766, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of the acute administration of marijuana (MJ) on cardiovascular (CV) function and CNS pharmacokinetics (PK) of [O-15] water in occasional (O) versus chronic (C) MJ users. Each subject received four injections of O-[15] water (one prior and three postsmoking) on two occasions in which they received active or placebo MJ. For each injection, measures of CV function and CNS PK [O-15] water were made. Postsmoking, MJ influenced all measured CV and [O-15] water PK parameters. C users reported significantly lower "highness" and smaller heart rate (HR) changes, which resulted in reduced rate pressure product (RPP) changes compared to O users, even though Delta(9)-tetrahydrocannabinol levels were higher, whereas changes in blood pressure (BP), arrival time, and [O-15] water concentration were not significantly different between the groups. Significant CV changes resulted in changes in the whole-body distribution of cardiac output, rather than changes in cerebral blood flow. Chronic MJ use produces tolerance to the HR increases induced by acute MJ smoking compared to changes observed in occasional users, without changing the effects on BP and [O-15] water PK. [References: 48]

Publication Type
Article

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<54>

Authors

Lewis RJ. Johnson RD. Angier MK. Ritter RM.

Title

Determination of cocaine, its metabolites, pyrolysis products, and ethanol adducts in postmortem fluids and tissues using Zymark (R) automated solid-phase extraction and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

Source

Journal of Chromatography B: Analytical Technologies in the Biomedical & Life Sciences. 806(2):141-150, 2004 Jul 5.

Abstract

Demonstrating the presence or absence of cocaine (COC) and COC-related molecules in postmortem fluids and/or tissues can have serious legal consequences and may help determine the cause of impairment and/or death. We have developed a simple method for the simultaneous determination of COC and the COC metabolites benzoylecgonine (BE), norbenzoylecgonine (NBE), ecgonine methyl ester (EME), ecgonine (E), and norcocaine (NCOC), as well as anhydroecgonine methyl ester (AEME) (a unique byproduct of COC smoking), cocaethylene (a molecule formed by the concurrent use of COC and ethanol) and their related metabolites, anhydroecgonine (AE), norcoccaethylene (NCE), and ecgonine ethyl ester (EEE). This method incorporates a Zymark(R) RapidTrace(TM) automated solid-phase extraction (SPE) system, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) and 2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoro-1-propanol (PFP)/pentafluoropropionic anhydride (PFPA) derivatives. The lower limits of detection ranged from 0.78 to 12.5 ng/mL and the linear dynamic range for most analytes was 0.78-3200 ng/mL. The extraction efficiencies were from 26 to 84% with the exception of anhydroecgonine and ecgonine, which were from 1 to 4%. We applied this method to five aviation fatalities. This method has proven to be simple, robust and accurate for the simultaneous determination of COC and 11 COC metabolites in postmortem fluids and tissues. (C) 2004 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved. [References: 45]

Publication Type

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Authors

Gorchakov GI. Anikin PP. Volokh AA. Emilenko AS. Isakov AA. Kopeikin VM. Ponomareva TY. Semutnikova EG. Sviridenkov MA. Shukurov KA.

Title

Studies of the smoky atmosphere composition over Moscow during peatbog fires in the summer-fall season of 2002

Source

Izvestiya Atmospheric & Oceanic Physics. 40(3):323-336, 2004 May-Jun.

Abstract

The optical characteristics of smoke aerosol produced by peatbog fires are measured. Variations in both the meteorological visual range and the mass concentration of submicron aerosol in the smoky atmosphere over Moscow and over the Moscow region are analyzed. The microstructure of submicron smoke aerosol in the atmospheric surface layer and in the atmospheric column is determined. The concentrations of gas pollutants in the smoky urban atmosphere are measured. The mass concentrations of heavy metals in the smoke aerosol are also measured. [References: 36]

Publication Type

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<56>

Authors

Levin L. Herzberg R. Dolev E. Schwartz-Arad D.

Title

Smoking and complications of onlay bone grafts and sinus lift operations

Source

International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants. 19(3):369-373, 2004 May-Jun.

Abstract

Purpose: To compare the incidence of complications related to onlay bone grafts (OBGs) and sinus lift operations (SLOs) among smokers and

non-smokers. Materials and Methods: Data from 143 operations performed during the years 1995 to 2003 were analyzed. There were 64 OBGs and 79 SLOs. Patients were divided into 3 groups: non-smokers, mild smokers (up to 10 cigarettes per day), and heavy smokers (more than 10 cigarettes per day). Duration of smoking (less or more than 10 years) was recorded. OBG complications were classified as minor (hematoma, swelling, inflammation, or temporary paresthesia) or major (graft exposure or mobility). For the SLO, perforations of the Schneiderian membrane were the main intraoperative complication; postoperative complications mostly consisted of swelling, acute or chronic sinus infection, or bleeding. Results: Of smokers having OBG, 50% experienced complications, compared to 23.1% of non-smokers. Major complications were observed in one third of the smokers, compared to only 7.7% in non-smokers. There was also a tendency toward complications in former smokers, although this relationship was not statistically significant. There was no relationship between SLO complications and smoking or a past smoking habit. Discussion: In the present study, smokers demonstrated significantly higher postoperative complications following OBG operations. Smoking did not influence the results in the SLO group. There was no statistically significant difference between complications and past smoking. This finding indicates that the risk of complications can be reduced up to the normal non-smoker complication rate when smoking ceases. Conclusions: This study established a relationship between OBG complications and smoking in this patient population. A higher incidence of complications was found in the smoking group. There was no significant influence of smoking on SLO complications.

[References: 45]

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<57>

Authors

Fischer K. Stenberg T.

Title

Early loading of ITI implants supporting a maxillary full-arch prosthesis: 1-year data of a prospective, randomized study

Source

International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants. 19(3):374-381, 2004 May-Jun.

Abstract

Purpose: This prospective, randomized study investigated the safety, feasibility, and reliability of the early loading of implants in edentulous maxillae. Materials and Methods: Twenty-four patients with completely edentulous maxillae were randomized into a test group ($n = 16$) and a control group ($n = 8$). All patients received 5 or 6 solid screw-type titanium implants. These were loaded with full-arch prostheses after 9 to 18 days in the test group and after 2.5 to 5.1 months in the control group. Periapical radiographs were taken and routine clinical assessments were made at loading, after 6 months, and after 12 months. Results: The implant survival rate 1 year after loading was 100%. Modified Plaque Index scores and Sulcus Bleeding Index scores were better in the test group than in the control group (P less than or equal to .05). There was a significant difference in peri-implant bone height between the 2 groups ($P < .001$) and this difference converged with time ($P < .001$). Discussion: This clinical, prospective, randomized, controlled study fulfilled the criteria for a comparable study. Owing to the small patient sample, the conclusions drawn were based on feasibility analyses of the results. Standard materials and methods were used. Only patients with maxillary bone of sufficient height and width were selected. The use of a single operator in each discipline-maxillofacial surgery, prosthodontics, and dental technology-may have improved the chances of achieving consistent standards and opinions. Conclusion: These results indicate that early loading in selected patients was as safe and reliable as delayed loading

in this small patient population and may offer a satisfactory alternative to the standard protocol. [References: 27]

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<58>

Authors

Herwaldt LA. Cullen JJ. French P. Hu JF. Pfaller MA. Wenzel RP. Perl TM.

Title

Preoperative risk factors for nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus*

Source

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology. 25(6):481-484, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

BACKGROUND: *Staphylococcus aureus* nasal carriage is a risk factor for surgical-site infections (SSIs) caused by *S. aureus*, and eradication of carriage reduces postoperative nosocomial infections caused by it. No study has compared large groups of preoperative carriers and non-carriers to identify factors that are linked to *S. aureus* nasal carriage.

METHODS: While conducting a clinical trial evaluating whether mupirocin prevented *S. aureus* SSIs, we prospectively collected data on 70 patient characteristics that might be associated with *S. aureus* carriage. We performed stepwise logistic regression analysis.

RESULTS: Of the 4,030 patients, 891 (22%) carried *S. aureus*. Independent risk factors for *S. aureus* nasal carriage were obesity (odds ratio [OR], 1.29; 95% confidence interval [CI95], 1.11-1.50), male gender (OR, 1.29; CI95, 1.11-1.51), and a history of a cerebrovascular accident (OR, 1.53; CI95, 1.03-2.25) for all patients. Factors associated with nasal carriage varied somewhat by surgical specialty. In all groups, preoperative use of antimicrobial agents was independently associated with a lower risk of carrying *S. aureus* in the nares. Previously identified risk factors were not significantly associated with *S. aureus* nasal carriage in this large group of surgical patients.

CONCLUSION: Male gender, obesity, and a history of a cerebrovascular accident were identified as risk factors for *S. aureus* nasal carriage. It remains to be seen whether preoperative weight loss would reduce the rate of nasal carriage. In addition, the value of screening this patient population for *S. aureus* nasal carriage merits further investigation (*Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2004;25:481-484). [References: 18]

Publication Type

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<59>

Authors

Faraone SV. Su J. Taylor L. Wilcox M.

Title

A novel permutation testing method implicates sixteen nicotinic acetylcholine receptor genes as risk factors for smoking in schizophrenia families

Source

Human Heredity. 57(2):59-68, 2004.

Abstract

Smoking is a common correlate of schizophrenia, which leads to medical morbidity. Although twin and adoption studies have consistently implicated

genes in the etiology of both smoking and schizophrenia, finding genes has been difficult. Several authors have suggested that clinical or neurobiological features associated with schizophrenia, such as smoking, might improve the ability to detect schizophrenia susceptibility genes by identifying genes related to the etiology of that feature. The objective of this study is to assess evidence for linkage of sixteen nicotinic acetylcholine receptor genes and smoking in schizophrenia families, using data from the NIMH Genetics Initiative for schizophrenia. Sixteen nicotinic acetylcholine receptor genes were selected prior to analysis. We used a multipoint sibling pair linkage analysis program, SIBPAL2, with a smoking trait in schizophrenia families. The significance of the group of candidate genes, in addition to each individual candidate gene, was assessed using permutation testing, which adjusted for multiple comparisons. The group of genes showed significant linkage to the smoking trait after adjusting for multiple comparisons through permutation testing ($p = 0.039$). In addition, two of the individual candidate genes were significant (CHRNA2, $p = 0.044$) and (CHRN8, $p = 0.015$) and two genes were marginally significant (CHRNA7, $p = 0.095$; CHRNA1, $p = 0.076$). The significance of the complex hypothesis, involving sixteen genes, implicates the nicotinic system in smoking for schizophrenic families. Individual gene analysis suggests that CHRNA2 and CHRN8 may play a particular role in this involvement. Such findings help prioritize genes for future case control studies. In addition, we provide a novel permutation method that is useful in future analyses involving a single hypothesis, with multiple candidate genes. Copyright (C) 2004 S. Karger AG, Basel. [References: 88]

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Jost HJ. Drdla K. Stohl A. Pfister L. Loewenstein M. Lopez JP. Hudson PK. Murphy DM. Cziczo DJ. Fromm M. Bui TP. Dean-Day J. Gerbig C. Mahoney MJ. Richard EC. Spichtinger N. Pittman JV. Weinstock EM. Wilson JC. Xueref I.

Title

In-situ observations of mid-latitude forest fire plumes deep in the stratosphere - art. no. L11101

Source

Geophysical Research Letters, 31(11):11101, 2004 Jun 2.

Abstract

[1] We observed a plume of air highly enriched in carbon monoxide and particles in the stratosphere at altitudes up to 15.6 km. It can be unambiguously attributed to North American forest fires. This plume demonstrates an extratropical direct transport path from the planetary boundary layer several kilometers deep into the stratosphere, which is not fully captured by large-scale atmospheric transport models. This process indicates that the stratospheric ozone layer could be sensitive to changes in forest burning associated with climatic warming. [References: 21]

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<61>

Authors

Wolf JM. Achkar JP. Lashner BA. Delaney CP. Petras RE. Goldblum JR. Connor JT. Remzi FH. Fazio VW.

Title

Afferent limb ulcers predict Crohn's disease in patients with ileal pouch-anal anastomosis

Source

Gastroenterology. 126(7):1686-1691, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Background & Aims: Some patients who undergo ileal pouch-anal anastomosis (IPAA) surgery for ulcerative colitis (UC) or indeterminate colitis are subsequently diagnosed with Crohn's disease (CID). Making the diagnosis of CID in patients with IPAA can be difficult, but it is important for prognostic and therapeutic purposes. The aim of this study was to identify diagnostic features of CD in patients with IPAA. **Methods:** We evaluated 87 patients who had undergone IPAA for inflammatory bowel disease. Patients were classified as having UC (n = 28), CID (n = 27), or indeterminate colitis (n = 32) based on review of the original colectomy pathology and the postoperative clinical course. Each patient underwent a pouch endoscopy with biopsies of the pouch and afferent limb. Both the endoscopist and pathologist were blinded to the patient's diagnosis.

Results: Afferent limb ulcers (ALUs) were seen on endoscopy in 1.2 of 27 patients with CD (45%) and 4 of 28 patients with UC (14%) (P = 0.019).

After excluding patients who had taken nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) within the past month, ALUs were found in 7 of 18 patients with CID (39%) and 0 of 17 patients with UC (P = 0.010). Controlling for NSAID use and smoking, the odds ratio for ALUs indicating CID was 4.67 (P = 0.03). In the UC population, ALUs were seen in 4 of 11 patients (36%) who had taken NSAIDs in the past month and 0 of 17 patients who had not taken NSAIDs (P = 0.016). **Conclusions:** ALUs seen on endoscopy are suggestive of CID in patients with inflammatory bowel disease who are not taking NSAIDs. [References: 20]

Publication Type

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<62>

Authors

Senior K.

Title

Forest fires kill trees long after the smoke has cleared

Source

Frontiers in Ecology & the Environment. 1(1):6, 2003 Feb.

Publication Type

News Item

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c62>

<63>

Authors

Misnawi. Jinap S. Jamilah B. Nazamid S.

Title

Sensory properties of cocoa liquor as affected by polyphenol concentration and duration of roasting

Source

Food Quality & Preference. 15(5):403-409, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

Sensory properties of cocoa liquor roasted at 120 degreesC for 15, 25, 35 and 45 min and containing different polyphenol concentrations (58, 116, 143 and 170 g kg⁻¹) were studied. Eight trained panellists carried out the sensory analysis using line scale with Ghanaian fermented cocoa liquor as a reference. The sensory attributes were cocoa flavour, astringency, bitterness, acidity/sourness, fruity/floral/bouquet, raw/green, smoky, mouldy/earthy and viscosity. Results of the study showed that as

polyphenol concentration in cocoa liquor increased, cocoa flavour and viscosity decreased and astringency and bitterness increased; however, other sensory properties were not influenced by polyphenol concentration. An increase in roasting duration of cocoa liquors containing 58-143 g kg(-1) polyphenol increased the flavour intensity; meanwhile that of contains 170 g kg(-1) polyphenol, it was in vice versa. These findings indicated that cocoa polyphenol would cause negative effect on flavour properties, apart from its well-known benefit as preservative and antioxidant. (C) 2003 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. [References: 34]

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<64>

Authors

Martinez O. Salmeron J. Guillen MD. Casas C.

Title

Texture profile analysis of meat products treated with commercial liquid smoke flavourings

Source

Food Control. 15(6):457-461, 2004 Sep.

Abstract

The texture of two meat products (salted pork loin and salted bacon) treated with two commercial liquid smoke flavourings (immersion for 30 s in either F1 or F2) was examined by instrumental texture profile analysis after 15, 30 and 90 days of storage. The two flavourings caused changes to the texture parameters of the products. Smoke flavouring F1, which is poor in carbonyl compounds, modified the cohesiveness, springiness and gumminess of the loin, and the hardness, fracturability and springiness of the bacon. Smoke flavouring F2, which is rich in carbonyl compounds, caused changes in springiness and gumminess of the loin, and of all the investigated texture parameters in bacon. Generally, significant changes occurred over time on the texture attributes evaluated. (C) 2003 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. [References: 28]

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<65>

Authors

Toivonen S. Heinonen S. Anttila M. Košma VM. Saarikoski S.

Title

Obstetric prognosis after placental abruption

Source

Fetal Diagnosis & Therapy. 19(4):336-341, 2004.

Abstract

Objective: To assess obstetric outcome in women with a history of placental abruption. Methods: We utilised the population-based birth registry data of Kuopio University Hospital to investigate pregnancy outcome in 59 women with prior placental abruption. The general obstetric population was used as a reference group in logistic regression analysis. Results: Recurrent placental abruption and associated adverse neonatal outcome occurred in 11.9% (7/ 59) of the women. If the disease did not recur, a history of placental abruption had no significant effects on birth weight, fetal distress or prematurity rate, whereas the incidence of pre-eclampsia was found to be increased. Conclusions: Women in whom placental abruption does not recur have a good outcome in their subsequent delivery, almost comparable to that in the general obstetric population. However, the recurrence rate of 11.9% is high (OR: 16.9, 95% CI: 8.2-34.9)

when compared with the background incidence of placental abruption (0.7%).

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Authors

Koch A. Giembycz M. Stirling RG. Lim S. Adcock I. Wassermann K. Erdmann E. Chung KF.

Title

Effect of smoking on MAP kinase-induced modulation of IL-8 in human alveolar macrophages

Source

European Respiratory Journal. 23(6):805-812, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Inflammatory cytokine production by alveolar macrophages (AMs) is regulated by transcriptional activation and may be increased by cigarette smoking.

The smoking-induced regulation of interleukin (IL)-8 by extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK)-1 and -2, p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) and the transcription factor nuclear factor-kappaB (NF-kappaB) in lipopolysaccharide-stimulated AMs was assessed in nine smokers compared with nine healthy nonsmokers.

IL-8 production was dependent on phosphorylation of ERK-1 and -2 and p38 MAPK, as examined by PD 098059 (10 μ M), an inhibitor of the upstream activator of MAPK kinase (MKK)-1, and SB 203580 (10 μ M), an inhibitor of p38 MAPK.

IL-8 release and the inhibitory effect of PD 098059 were increased in AMs from smokers. Moreover, ERK-2 messenger ribonucleic acid expression, as examined by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and phosphorylation of ERK-2 using Western blots, were increased in AMs from smokers, indicating a smoking-induced modulatory role of ERK-1 and -2. Lipopolysaccharide-induced IL-8 production was dependent on activation of NF-kappaB, as examined by SN 50 (100 μ M), an inhibitor of NF-kappaB translocation, and the specific NF-kappaB inhibitor kinase-2 inhibitor, AS 602868 (10 PM), with no differences in AMs from smokers and nonsmokers. SN 50 but not PD 098059 and SB 203580 blocked NF-kappaB deoxyribonucleic acid-binding, and this occurred to the same extent in AMs from smokers and nonsmokers, as examined by electromobility shift assay.

It is concluded that cigarette smoking enhances mitogen-activated protein kinase activation more than nuclear factor-kappaB activation to increase lipopolysaccharide-induced interleukin-8 production in alveolar macrophages. [References: 44]

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Authors

Lund MB. Brinch L. Kongerud J. Boe J.

Title

Lung function 5 yrs after allogeneic bone marrow transplantation conditioned with busulphan and cyclophosphamide

Source

Abstract

Long-term data on lung function after bone marrow transplantation (BMT) are inconclusive. Previously, a persistent reduction in gas transfer 1 yr after allogeneic BMT with busulphan and cyclophosphamide conditioning was reported by the current authors. In the present study this reduction was examined to see if it was permanent, transient or progressive.

Prospectively, 43 consecutive adult patients with malignant blood disorders undertook lung function measurements prior to BMT, at 3 month intervals during the 1st yr after BMT and finally after 5 yrs.

Mean baseline lung function values were >90% predicted. Within the 1st yr after BMT a transient decline in lung volumes and a persistent reduction in gas transfer were observed. After 5 yrs, baseline values were restored for all variables, except in four patients who developed obliterative bronchiolitis. Acute leukaemia and smoking were independently associated with gas transfer reductions at baseline and during the 1st yr after BMT.

Allogeneic bone marrow transplantation with busulphan and cyclophosphamide conditioning was associated with a reduction in gas transfer 1 yr after bone marrow transplantation but baseline values were usually restored after 5 yrs. Since recovery may be gradual and slow, an observation period >1 yr is required before drawing conclusions concerning the development of a permanent reduction in lung function after allogeneic bone marrow transplantation conditioned with busulphan and cyclophosphamide.

[References: 28]

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Article

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Authors

Sekhon HS, Proskocil BJ, Clark JA, Spindel ER.

Title

Prenatal nicotine exposure increases connective tissue expression in foetal monkey pulmonary vessels

Source

European Respiratory Journal. 23(6):906-915, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Among the many deleterious effects of maternal smoking during pregnancy on foetal development, is a higher incidence of persistent pulmonary hypertension. The recent identification of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (nAChR) on cells of the pulmonary vessel walls suggests that maternal smoking during pregnancy may produce morphological alterations in foetal pulmonary vasculature.

Timed-pregnant rhesus monkeys were treated with nicotine (1 mg(.)kg(-1).day(-1)) delivered by subcutaneous osmotic mini-pumps from days 26-134 of gestation (term: 165 days). Lung sections from 134-day foetal monkeys were used for morphometric analysis, *in situ* hybridisation and immunohistochemical staining.

Following nicotine treatment, total wall and tunica adventitia thickness of airway associated vessels (AAV) increased significantly. Nicotine exposure significantly increased collagen I and III mRNA and protein in tunica adventitia in all AAV but not in tunica media. By contrast, levels of elastin protein were significantly decreased. alpha7 nAChR were detected in AAV fibroblasts that expressed collagen mRNA. Choline acetyltransferase, the enzyme which synthesises acetylcholine, the ligand for alpha7 nAChR was also detected in endothelium and fibroblasts.

These findings suggest that with smoking during pregnancy, nicotine is

transported across the placenta and directly interacts with nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in pulmonary vessels to alter connective tissue expression and therefore produce vascular structural alterations.

[References: 32]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Cleland JGE. Ghosh J. Freemantle N. Kaye GC. Nasir M. Clark AL.
Coletta AP.

Title

Clinical trials update and cumulative meta-analyses from the American College of cardiology: WATCH, SCD-HeFT, DINAMIT, CASINO, INSPIRE, STRATUS-US, RIO-LIPIDS and cardiac resynchronisation therapy in heart failure

Source

European Journal of Heart Failure. 6(4):501-508, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

This article continue, a series of reports on recent research developments in the field of heart failure. Key presentations made at the American College of Cardiology meeting, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA in March 2004 are reported. These new data have been added to existing data in cumulative meta-analyses. The WATCH study randomised 1587 patients with heart failure and left ventricular systolic dysfunction to warfarin, aspirin or clopidogrel. The study showed no difference between the effects of these agents on mortality or myocardial infarction, but hospitalisations for heart failure were higher on aspirin (22.2%) compared to warfarin (16.1%). The SCD-HeFT study showed that ICD therapy reduced all-cause mortality at 5 years by 23% in patients with predominantly NYHA class II heart failure and left ventricular systolic dysfunction, but amiodarone was ineffective. The DINAMIT study showed that ICD therapy was not beneficial in patients with left ventricular dysfunction after a recent MI, even in those with risk factors for arrhythmic death. In CASINO, levosimendan improved survival compared with dobutamine or placebo in patients with decompensated heart failure. INSPIRE showed that SPECT imaging can be used to assess risk early after acute MI safely and accurately. Rimonabant was shown to be safe and effective in treating the combined cardiovascular risk factors of smoking and obesity. An overview of new developments in cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) in heart failure is also reported. (C) 2004 European Society of Cardiology.

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Authors

Can O. Celikten I. Usta N.

Title

Effects of ethanol addition on performance and emissions of a turbocharged indirect injection Diesel engine running at different injection pressures

Source

Energy Conversion & Management. 45(15-16):2429-2440, 2004 Sep.

Abstract

Ethanol is an alternative renewable fuel produced from different agricultural products. The ethanol-Diesel emulsion technique is one of the techniques to use ethanol in Diesel engines. The most important advantage

of this technique is to be able to use ethanol without any modification in Diesel engines.

In this study, the effects of ethanol addition (10% and 15% in volume) to Diesel No. 2 on the performance and emissions of a four stroke cycle, four cylinder turbocharged indirect injection Diesel engine having different fuel injection pressures (150, 200 and 250 bar) at full load were investigated. 1% isopropanol was added to the mixtures to satisfy homogeneity and prevent phase separation. Experimental results showed that the ethanol addition reduces CO, soot and SO₂ emissions, although it caused an increase in NO_x emission, and approximately 12.5% (for 10% ethanol addition) and 20% (for 15% ethanol addition) power reductions. It was also found that increasing the injection pressure of the engine running with ethanol-Diesel fuel decreased CO and smoke emissions, especially between 1500 and 2500 rpm, with respect to Diesel fuel, while it caused some reduction in power. (C) 2003 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. [References: 46]

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Authors

Heaton JPW. Adams MA.

Title

Causes of erectile dysfunction

Source

Endocrine. 23(2-3):119-123, 2004 Mar-Apr.

Abstract

Erectile dysfunction (ED) arises as a result of a collision of circumstances among any of a number of factors (e.g., risk factors, causes, probable associations), each with its own primary power to affect the outcome. Furthermore, each of the components has its own timing as part of a complex effort of compensation and adjustment that often obscures the individual details. In the end, ED results from a failure of local tissues or systemic supply and control structures. The power of any individual "cause" to degrade erectile function is an important but as-yet unquantified property. The power of a small abnormality over a long or critical period (e.g., organogenesis), or many small contributions, or multiple risk factors will certainly be greater than the sum of the individual elements. Without a full quantitation of pathways and their potential influence, one can compare the importance of causative factors only in limited ways. Not surprisingly, it is the presence of a multiplicity of unidentified or poorly understood causative factors that accounts in large measure for the current inability to cure and prevent ED. There are two other important properties of a putatively causative factor for ED-reversibility and preventability-and these are strongly influenced by the time of onset and the duration of impact. Thus, a critical understanding that comes from recognizing the importance of the temporal associations of component factors is that the causes of ED in an individual may be guessed at but cannot be fully disclosed by an analysis of a "snap-shot" of the disease taken at the time of diagnosis.

[References: 47]

Publication Type

Article

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<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c71>

<72>

Authors

James M.

Title

No smoke without fire

Source

Electronics World. 110(1819):53, 2004 Jul.

Publication Type

Letter

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c72>

<73>

Authors

Teagle DAH. Alt JC.

Title

Hydrothermal alteration of basalts beneath the Bent Hill massive sulfide deposit, Middle Valley, Juan de Fuca Ridge

Source

Economic Geology & the Bulletin of the Society of Economic Geologists. 99(3):561-584, 2004 May.

Abstract

Burial of midocean ridges by elastic sediments, particularly at continental margins, profoundly affects the geometry and chemistry of hydrothermal circulation and mineralization in the upper crust. Middle Valley, the sediment-covered northern extension of the bare-rock Endeavour segment of the Juan de Fuca Ridge, is host to the base metal-rich (Cu-Zn) Bent Hill massive sulfide deposit. At a water depth of 2,400 m, the similar to 9 Mt Bent Hill deposit is a steep-sided body similar to 200 m across and similar to 100-m-thick. Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) hole 856H penetrates through the massive sulfide and underlying feeder zone extending to a total depth of 500 m below sea floor through the base of the strongly recrystallized (quartz + chlorite) sediment pile and into the uppermost volcanic basement. The basaltic rocks beneath the Bent Hill deposit include narrow sills intruded into indurated sediments, a volcanic flow erupted on top of sediments, and pillow lavas below the lowermost sediments recovered.

Similar styles of alteration are present in both the sills and flows, and alteration is dominated by the effects of large-scale hydrothermal upflow rather than hydrothermal activity associated with individual eruptions or intrusions. The basalts are slightly to completely altered to greenschist facies secondary minerals, principally quartz, chlorite, and titanite, with subsidiary epidote, Cu-Fe sulfides, and rare actinolite. There are steep mineralogical, chemical, and isotopic alteration gradients from the highly altered basalt-sediment interfaces down to the less altered flow interiors, suggesting the channeling of hydrothermal fluids along the basalt-sediment boundaries. Alteration is reflected in intense metasomatic changes in the basalts. Assuming immobile TiO₂, the most intensely altered basalts have undergone about 20 percent mass loss during recrystallization to chlorite-quartz rocks, with depletions in silica, alumina, and alkali, alkali earth, and base metals. Chloritized pillow margins with strongly light rare earth element-enriched chondrite-normalized patterns ([La/Sm](N) = 1.5; cf. fresh basalts, similar to 0.7), that mimic profiles for midocean ridge hydrothermal fluids, require fluid-rock exchange with large quantities of hydrothermal fluid (W/R similar to 27,000). Oxygen isotope compositions of chlorite-quartz rocks ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$ = 1.8-2.4 parts per thousand) suggest that alteration occurred between similar to 320 degrees and 370 degrees C.

Strontium isotope compositions of the altered basalts and the chlorite-quartz rocks are not homogeneous and range from Sr-87/Sr-86 ratio = 0.7037 to 0.7046. There is a strong mode in Sr-87/Sr-86 ratio at similar to 0.7038, suggesting that much of the alteration occurred by isotopic exchange with a hydrothermal fluid of that composition. This ratio is significantly lower than that measured for 265 C fluids venting from the

nearby ODP mound ($\text{Sr-87/Sr-86} = 0.7044$). The occurrence of epidote and isocubanite in the chloritized glassy pillow margins suggests that these rocks may retain a record of the high-temperature (>350 degreesC) hydrothermal fluid responsible for the formation of the overlying Bent Hill massive sulfide deposit. The strontium isotope composition of the chloritized glassy pillow margins, and hence the mineralizing fluid, is slightly more radiogenic ($\text{87Sr/86Sr} = 0.7046$). This composition could result from the addition of similar to 15 percent of a pelagic or sedimentary component to the Sr-87/Sr-86 ratio = 0.7038 fluid responsible for most of the Sr isotope exchange with the upper basement.

The sediments beneath the Bent Hill deposit are also strongly recrystallized to quartz and chlorite. Although their strontium isotope compositions are much lower than those in pelagic or terrigenous sediments in the region ($\text{Sr-87/Sr-86} = 0.709-0.720$), the range of compositions ($\text{Sr-87/Sr-86} = 0.7046-0.7060$) has little overlap with that of the altered basalts and chlorite-quartz rocks from the sills and uppermost basement. This lack of overlap suggests that the sediments either retain some of their original sedimentary strontium or that there is a range of fluid compositions in the sediment pile beneath the Bent Hill deposit. Sediments from the margins of Middle Valley, far from zones of active black smoker venting (ODP site 855), have Sr-87/Sr-86 ratios with a significant hydrothermal component (0.7059-0.7086). These ratios indicate that the subsurface hydrology of Middle Valley is dominated by evolved fluids rather than seawater, and that recharge into this system is not through boundary faults or through the sedimentary blanket as suggested by previous models. Rather, exposed basement rocks that form the flanks of Middle Valley are the most likely zones of regional seawater recharge to the deep high-temperature hydrothermal systems. [References: 91]

Publication Type

Article

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<74>

Authors

Rouxel O., Fouquet Y., Ludden JN.

Title

Copper isotope systematics of the Lucky Strike, Rainbow, and Logatchev sea-floor hydrothermal fields on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge

Source

Economic Geology & the Bulletin of the Society of Economic Geologists. 99(3):585-600, 2004 May.

Abstract

In this paper, we present the copper isotope signatures of black smoker sulfides, massive sulfides, and their alteration products and provide new insights into mineralization processes and applications of copper isotope geochemistry to sea-floor hydrothermal systems on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The hydrothermal systems studied include the Lucky Strike field at 37 degrees 17'N on a basaltic substrate and the Rainbow and Logatchev fields, situated on ultramafic rock. Copper isotope variation in the hydrothermal precipitates was examined in conjunction with S isotopes and Se and Co concentrations. The comparison between $\delta(65)\text{Cu}$ and Se contents shows that subsurface precipitation of Cu-rich sulfides does not control significantly the $\delta(65)\text{Cu}$ values of the hydrothermal chimneys. It appears that the major cause of copper isotope fractionation in hydrothermal systems (up to 3 parts per thousand) is the sea-floor oxidation of primary copper sulfides. Enrichment in the heavy copper isotope can be explained by processes occurring at the sea floor, such as hydrothermal reworking of previously altered sulfides by high-temperature fluid. Massive sulfides characterized by negative $\delta(65)\text{Cu}$ values have undergone extensive recrystallization. In these mineralogical assemblages, isotopically heavy copper typical of altered sulfides has been leached and redeposited in the external zones or incorporated in hydrothermal fluids.

Copper isotopes are therefore a promising tool for the study of supergene processes and the recycling of previously oxidized sulfides, as well as a means of characterizing the degree of hydrothermal reworking of large sulfide deposits. Further studies of copper isotope fractionation under controlled laboratory experimental conditions are required to identify copper isotope fractionation during sulfide alteration. In particular, the possible biological mediation of copper isotope fractionation during sulfide oxidation may be an important direction for further studies.

[References: 55]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Watson L. Small R. Brown S. Dawson W. Lumley J.

Title

Mounting a community-randomized trial: sample size, matching, selection, and randomization issues in PRISM

Source

Controlled Clinical Trials. 25(3):235-250, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

This paper discusses some of the processes for establishing a large cluster-randomized trial of a community and primary care intervention in 16 local government areas in Victoria, Australia. The development of the trial in terms of design factors such as sample size estimates and the selection and randomization of communities to intervention or comparison is described. The intervention program to be implemented in Program of Resources, Information and Support for Mothers (PRISM) was conceived as a whole community approach to improving support for all mothers in the first 12 months after birth. A cluster-randomized trial was thus the design of choice from the outset. With a limited number of communities available, a matched-pair design with eight pairs was chosen. Sample size estimates, adjusting for the cluster randomization and the pair-matched design, showed that with eight pairs, on average, 800 women from each community would need to respond to provide sufficient power to determine a 3% reduction in the prevalence of maternal depression 6 months after birth—a reduction deemed to be a worthwhile impact of the intervention to be reliably detected at 80% power. The process of selecting suitable communities and matching them into pairs required careful collection of data on numbers of births, size of the local government areas (LGAs), and an assessment of the capacity of communities to implement the intervention. Ways of dealing with boundary issues associated with potential contamination are discussed. Methods for the selection of feasible configurations of sets of pairs and the ultimate allocation to intervention or comparison are provided in detail. Ultimately, all such studies are a balancing act between selecting the minimum number of communities to detect a meaningful outcome effect of an intervention and the maximum size budget and other resources allow. (C) 2004 Elsevier Inc.

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Publication Type

Article

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<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c75>

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Authors

Kister P. Cuney M. Golubev VN. Royer JJ. De Veslud CL. Rippert JC.

Title

Radiogenic lead mobility in the Shea Creek unconformity-related uranium

deposit (Saskatchewan, Canada): migration pathways and Pb loss quantification

Source

Comptes Rendus Geoscience. 336(3):205-215, 2004 Mar.

Abstract

The average Pb/U ratio of the Shea Creek unconformity-type uranium deposit has been estimated at 0.071 ± 0.015 . The calculation was performed on a volume enclosing the orebody to take into account the possible radiogenic lead migration within the ore zone. Despite this precaution, this ratio is significantly lower than the expected ratio (0.211) assuming a main U deposition around 1315 Ma, as suggested by previous U-Pb isotopic dating. Although part of the radiogenic lead can be trapped as galena within the orebody, about 60% of Pb have migrated more than 700 m away from the orebody, preferentially along the unconformity. (C) 2004 Academie des sciences. Published by Elsevier SAS. All rights reserved. [References: 23]

Publication Type

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~~76~~
Authors

Willerson JT. Ridker PM.

Title

Inflammation as a cardiovascular risk factor

Source

Circulation. 109(21 Suppl S):2-10, 2004 Jun 1.

Abstract

Inflammation occurs in the vasculature as a response to injury, lipid peroxidation, and perhaps infection. Various risk factors, including hypertension, diabetes, and smoking, are amplified by the harmful effects of oxidized low-density-lipoprotein cholesterol, initiating a chronic inflammatory reaction, the result of which is a vulnerable plaque, prone to rupture and thrombosis. Epidemiological and clinical studies have shown strong and consistent relationships between markers of inflammation and risk of future cardiovascular events. Inflammation can potentially be detected locally by imaging techniques as well as emerging techniques, such as identification of temperature or pH heterogeneity. It can be detected systemically by measurement of inflammatory markers. Of these, the most reliable and accessible for clinical use is currently high-sensitivity C-reactive protein. A combination of methods may provide the best identification of persons at risk for cardiovascular events who would benefit from treatment. In randomized, controlled trials, 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase inhibitors, in the form of statins, have been shown to provide effective therapy for lowering CRP, in conjunction with their lipid-lowering effects. Although the magnitude of risk reduction associated with statin use appears to be largest for those with the highest serum levels of CRP, whether CRP reduction per se lowers cardiovascular risk is unknown. [References: 73]

Publication Type

Article

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~~76~~
Authors

Landmesser U. Hornig B. Drexler H.

Title

Endothelial function - A critical determinant in atherosclerosis?

Source

Circulation. 109(21 Suppl S):27-33, 2004 Jun 1.

Abstract

Common conditions predisposing to atherosclerosis, such as hypercholesterolemia, hypertension, diabetes, and smoking, are associated with endothelial dysfunction. Endothelial function has largely been assessed as endothelium-dependent vasomotion, at least in part based on the assumption that impaired endothelium-dependent vasodilation also reflects the alteration of other important functions of the endothelium. An important rationale for this approach has been the observation that endothelium-derived nitric oxide (NO), a major mediator of endothelium-dependent vasodilation, has important anti-inflammatory and antithrombotic properties, ie, inhibiting leukocyte adhesion, limiting platelet adhesion and aggregation, and the expression of plasminogen activator inhibitor-I (PAI-1), a prothrombotic protein. Accumulating data suggest that the degree of impairment of endothelium-dependent vasomotion has profound and independent prognostic implications. A common mechanism underlying endothelial dysfunction relates to increased vascular production of reactive oxygen species. Recent studies also suggest that inflammation per se and C-reactive protein in particular may directly contribute to endothelial dysfunction. These findings raise the question of whether assessment of endothelial function can be used in the clinical setting to identify patients at high risk. New insights into mechanisms of endothelial dysfunction, such as a better understanding of the regulation of important vascular sources of oxygen radicals, may lead to novel therapeutic strategies with the potential to improve prognosis.

[References: 77]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Singh M. Gersh BJ. McClelland RL. Ho KKL. Willerson JT. Penny WF.
Holmes DR.

Title

Clinical and angiographic predictors of restenosis after percutaneous coronary intervention - Insights from the prevention of restenosis with traniplast and its outcomes (PRESTO) trial

Source

Circulation. 109(22):2727-2731, 2004 Jun 8.

Abstract

Background - Restenosis prediction from published studies is hampered by inadequate sample size and incomplete angiographic follow-up. The prediction of restenosis with the existing variables is poor. The aim of the present study was to include the clinical and angiographic variables commonly associated with angiographic restenosis and develop a prediction model for restenosis from the PRESTO database.

Methods and Results - This study included 1312 patients with a single lesion enrolled in the angiographic substudy of the PRESTO trial. We constructed 2 risk scores. The first used preprocedural variables (female gender, vessel size [less than or equal to 2.5 mm, 2.5 to 3 mm, 3 to 3.5 mm, 3.5 to 4 mm, > 4 mm], lesion length > 20 mm, diabetes, smoking status, type C lesion, any previous percutaneous coronary intervention [PCI], and unstable angina) derived from previous studies. Estimated restenosis rates and corresponding variability for each possible level of the resultant risk score were obtained via bootstrapping techniques. The area under the receiver-operator characteristic (ROC) curve was 0.63, indicating modest discriminatory ability to predict restenosis. The second approach constructed a multiple logistic regression model considering significant univariate clinical and angiographic predictors of restenosis identified from the PRESTO database (treated diabetes mellitus, nonsmoker, vessel size, lesion length, American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association type C lesion, ostial location, and previous PCI). The area

under the ROC curve for this risk score* was also 0.63.

Conclusions - The preprocedural clinical and angiographic variables from available studies and from the PRESTO trial have only modest predictive ability for restenosis after PCI. [References: 20]

Publication Type

Article

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<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c79>

<80>

Authors

Iso H. Moriyama Y. Sato S. Kitamura A. Tanigawa T. Yamagishi K.
Imano H. Ohira T. Okamura T. Naito Y. Shimamoto T.

Title

Serum total homocysteine concentrations and risk of stroke and its subtypes in Japanese

Source

Circulation. 109(22):2766-2772, 2004 Jun 8.

Abstract

Background - To date, no prospective studies have examined the association between serum homocysteine levels and the risk of stroke and stroke subtypes in Asian populations.

Methods and Results - A prospective, nested, case-control study of Japanese subjects 40 to 85 years of age was conducted by using frozen serum samples from 11 846 participants in cardiovascular risk surveys collected from 1984 to 1995 for one community and 1989 to 1995 for the other two communities. By the end of 2000, we identified 150 incident strokes, the subtypes of which were confirmed by imaging studies. Three control subjects per case were selected by matching for sex, age, community, year of serum storage, and fasting status. Serum total homocysteine levels were measured by high-performance liquid chromatography. Compared with control subjects, total ($n = 150$), hemorrhagic ($n = 52$), and ischemic ($n = 98$) strokes had higher geometric mean values of total homocysteine and higher proportions of homocysteine greater than or equal to 11.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$. The multivariate odds ratios (95% CI) for highest (greater than or equal to 11.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) versus lowest quartiles (<7.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) of homocysteine after adjustment for body mass index, smoking, alcohol intake, hypertension, serum total cholesterol, and other cardiovascular risk factors were 2.99 (1.51 to 5.93) for total stroke, 3.89 (1.60 to 9.46) for ischemic stroke, 3.36 (1.27 to 8.90) for lacunar infarction, and 1.63 (0.44 to 6.00) for hemorrhagic stroke. The respective multivariate odds ratios associated with a 5- $\mu\text{mol/L}$ increase in homocysteine were 1.40 (1.09 to 1.80), 1.52 (1.07 to 2.14), 1.48 (1.01 to 2.18), and 1.10 (0.76 to 1.59). The excess risk of total and ischemic strokes did not vary significantly according to sex, age, smoking status, or hypertensive status.

Conclusions - High total homocysteine concentrations were associated with the increased risk of total stroke, more specifically ischemic stroke and lacunar infarction, among Japanese men and women. [References: 28]

Publication Type

Article

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c80>

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Authors

Eaton L.

Title

Smoking habits of ethnic groups lead to higher risk of heart disease

Source

British Medical Journal. 328(7453):1397, 2004 Jun 12.

Publication Type

News Item

This link leads to available full-text or the complete reference.

<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c81>

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Authors

Aggarwal RK. Chandel SS.

Title

Review of Improved Cookstoves Programme in Western Himalayan State of India [Review]

Source

Biomass & Bioenergy. 27(2):131-144, 2004.

Abstract

The status of National Programme on Improved Cookstoves (NPIC) in Himachal Pradesh, the Western Himalayan Indian state, is presented. The lessons learnt from the success and failures in the implementation of the programme are highlighted. The research and development efforts of the Technology Back Up Centre, in developing energy-efficient space-heating metal stoves for high-altitude regions of the state are described. The feedback survey indicates that these improved stoves based on traditional stove designs are more acceptable to people. The study shows that NPIC needs to continue with new vigour in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region for the protection of forests and health of women. A new approach for the implementation of NPIC is outlined which includes massive awareness campaign about harmful impact of smoke emissions, improved ventilated kitchen designs, introduction of alternate cooking and space heating technologies including passive solar house technology for space heating in extreme cold climates. (C) 2003 Published by Elsevier Ltd.

[References: 7]

Publication Type

Review

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<http://gateway.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&MODE=ovid&PAGE=fulltext&NEWS=n&D=ccse&AUTOALERT=104218400%7c82>

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Authors

Allan SM. Adkins SW. Preston CA. Bellairs SM.

Title

Improved germination of the Australian natives: Hibbertia commutata, Hibbertia amplexicaulis (Dilleniaceae), Chameascilla corymbosa (Liliaceae) and Leucopogon nutans (Epacridaceae)

Source

Australian Journal of Botany. 52(3):345-351, 2004.

Abstract

Hibbertia commutata (Steudel), H. amplexicaulis (Steudel), Chameascilla corymbosa [(R.Br.) F.Muell. Ex Benth.] and Leucopogon nutans (E. Pritzel) are four Australian species that are difficult to germinate during mine-site rehabilitation. Laboratory germination trials were conducted to identify dormancy mechanisms and to improve germination response.

Treatments applied to all species included scarification and scarification followed by soaking seeds in smoke water (1, 5 or 10%) or gibberellic-acid solution (50, 200 or 1000 μ M). Additional treatments with kinetin solution (50, 200 or 1000 μ M) and smoke water (50 or 100%) were applied to scarified or unscarified seeds of C. corymbosa. Thermal-shock treatment was applied to L. nutans fruit, some of which were subsequently scarified and subjected to both smoke water (10%) and gibberellic-acid solution (1000 μ M). Significant germination increases were obtained by using

dormancy-breaking treatments on *H. commutata* (from 12.8 to 76.0%), *H. amplexicaulis* (from 6.8 to 55.1%) and *C. corymbosa* (from 48.5 to 86.4%). Scarification alone increased germination of both *Hibbertia* species, suggesting that these species display a physical seed coat-imposed dormancy mechanism. Germination of *H. amplexicaulis* was further increased by the application of gibberellic-acid solution, indicating a possible embryo-imposed dormancy mechanism. Scarification followed by the application of smoke water produced the highest germination response for *C. corymbosa* seeds. Scarification alone did not significantly increase germination, inferring the existence of a smoke-responsive embryo dormancy mechanism. Seeds of *L. nutans*, although viable, failed to germinate and are thought to display complex seed coat- and embryo-imposed dormancy mechanisms. [References: 23]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Duda SW.

Title

Atria smoke exhaust - 3 approaches to replacement air delivery

Source

ASHRAE Journal. 46(6):21-27, 2004 Jun.

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Boers M. Dijkmans B. Gabriel S. Maradit-Kremers H. O'Dell J. Pincus

T.

Title

Making an impact on mortality in rheumatoid arthritis

Source

Arthritis & Rheumatism. 50(6):1734-1739, 2004 Jun.

Publication Type

Editorial Material

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<86>

Authors

Hessol NA. Missett B. Fuentes-Afflick E.

Title

Lower agreement on behavioral factors than on medical conditions in self-reported data among pregnant Latina women

Source

Archives of Medical Research. 35(3):241-245, 2004 May-Jun.

Abstract

Background. Agreement between self-reported data and data obtained from medical records is far from perfect and few studies have analyzed the element of language when self-reported data are given in one language and this information is recorded in another language in the medical record.

Our objective was to assess agreement between self-reported data and medical record data with regard to prenatal risk factors in pregnant

Latina women.

Methods. We interviewed 350 Latina women at greater than or equal to 20 weeks' gestation regarding station regarding alcohol use, tobacco use, use of prenatal vitamins, age, education, use of prenatal care, and medical conditions. Kappa statistic (kappa) and 95% confidence intervals (95% CIs) were used to calculate agreement between self-reported responses and medical record data. Multiple logistic regression analysis was used to evaluate effect of maternal characteristics on likelihood of disagreement.

Results. Agreement between self-reported and medical record data was generally lower for behavioral factors (alcohol kappa = 0.37 and prenatal vitamin use kappa = 0.09) than for medical conditions (anemia kappa = 0.63, gestational diabetes kappa = 0.83, and hypertension kappa = 0.68). In general, maternal characteristics did not significantly predict patterns of disagreement.

Conclusions. Among pregnant Latina women, self-reported data on behavioral factors had lower agreement than self-reported data on medical conditions. Further study is needed to define the effect of other factors, such as social norms, on accuracy of self-reported data during pregnancy. (C) 2004 IMSS. Published by Elsevier Inc. [References: 29]

Publication Type

Article

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<87>

Authors

Miehle M. Eisgruber H.

Title

The whale as food animal history legal provisions - current aspects
[German]

Source

Archiv fur Lebensmittelhygiene. 55(2):28-31, 2004 Mar-Apr.

Abstract

Already in pre-Christian times whales, the only mammal order with the exclusive natural habitat water, represented an important food source for inhabitants of coastal regions, especially in the polar areas. Due to the general increase in mechanization whaling was also more and more industrialized from the beginning of the 20(th) century onwards. In addition to meat, which was sold as a cheap alternative to beef, whales supplied oil for the production of lamp oil, soap and candles as well as raw material for gelatine, glue, meat and bone meal. Vitamin A was obtained from whale livers and sperm whales supplied ambergris, which is still sought-after for perfume production nowadays.

Whale meat, considered a delicacy, was prepared in various ways (curing, smoking, production of sausages and canned products). Conservation via deep freezing for the first time offered a reliable means of protecting the meat from the fast onset of fat oxidation. Up to the Second World War Germany, next to Norway and Japan, had one of the largest whaling fleets in the world. Whales, which according to German legislation are no longer to be considered food animals, are internationally protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES; Appendix I, respectively II). Yet, several whaling nations (e.g. Norway and Japan) do not respect such agreements and continue their whaling operations. [References: 34]

Publication Type

Article

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<88>

Authors

Aho K. Heliovaara M.

Title

Risk factors for rheumatoid arthritis [Review]

Source

Annals of Medicine. 36(4):242-251, 2004.

Abstract

Both genetic and environmental factors contribute to the development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). A long-term latent process often precedes the onset of arthritis. Hence, the ultimate causes of RA cannot be clarified by studying only the inflamed joints. Longitudinal studies focusing on risk factors are crucial in approaching the true aetiology. At present, most information gained from epidemiological studies is contradictory or vague. For instance, there is no consensus concerning the long-term effects of pregnancy or the putative protective role of oral contraceptives. There is no doubt that diet plays a role, but no specific nutrient has proved to be either protective or deleterious. Smoking is the only environmental risk factor that has been firmly verified epidemiologically for RA. It can be reasonably regarded as a contributory cause of RA. Studying the immunological effects of exposure to cigarette smoke may offer an opportunity to combine information from basic and epidemiological research to clarify the causal chains leading to RA.

[References: 113]

Publication Type

Review

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<89>

Authors

Hayashi T. Boyko EJ. Leonetti DL. McNeely MJ. Newell-Morris L. Kahn SE. Fujimoto WY.

Title

Visceral adiposity is an independent predictor of incident hypertension in Japanese Americans

Source

Annals of Internal Medicine. 140(12):992-1000, 2004 Jun 15.

Abstract

Background: Visceral adiposity is generally considered to play a key role in the metabolic syndrome.

Objective: To examine the relationship between directly measured visceral adiposity and the risk for incident hypertension, independent of other adipose depots and fasting plasma insulin levels.

Design: Community-based prospective cohort study with 10- to 11-year follow-up.

Setting: King County, Washington.

Participants: 300 Japanese Americans with a systolic blood pressure less than 140 mm Hg and a diastolic blood pressure less than 90 mm Hg who were not taking anti hypertensive medications, oral hypoglycemic medications, or insulin at study entry.

Measurements: Abdominal, thoracic, and thigh fat areas were measured by using computed tomography. Total subcutaneous fat area was calculated as the sum of these fat areas excluding the intra-abdominal fat area.

Hypertension during follow-up was defined as having a systolic blood pressure of 140 mm Hg or greater, having a diastolic blood pressure of 90 mm Hg or greater, or taking anti hypertensive medications.

Results: There were 92 incident cases of hypertension during the follow-up period. The intra-abdominal fat area was associated with an increased risk for hypertension. Multiple-adjusted odds ratios of hypertension for quartiles of intra-abdominal fat area (1 = lowest; 4 = highest) were 5.07 (95% CI, 1.75 to 14.73) for quartile 3 and 3.48 (CI, 1.01 to 11.99) for quartile 4 compared with quartile 1 after adjustment for age, sex, fasting plasma insulin level, 2-hour plasma glucose level, body mass index, systolic blood pressure, alcohol consumption, smoking status, and energy expenditure through exercise ($P = 0.003$ for quadratic trend). The intra-abdominal fat area remained a significant risk factor for hypertension, even after adjustment for total subcutaneous fat area, abdominal subcutaneous fat area, or waist circumference; however, no measure of these fat areas was associated with risk for hypertension in models that contained the intra-abdominal fat area. **Limitations:** It is not known whether these results pertain to other ethnic groups.

Conclusions: Greater visceral adiposity increases the risk for hypertension in Japanese Americans. [References: 44]

Publication Type

Article

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Authors

Hoppin AA. Umbach DM. London SJ. Alavanja MCR. Sandier DP.

Title

Diesel exhaust, solvents, and other occupational exposures as risk factors for wheeze among farmers

Source

American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine.
169(12):1308-1313, 2004 Jun 15.

Abstract

Farmers engage in activities that result in exposure to diesel exhaust, solvents, welding fumes, and other respiratory irritants. Using the Agricultural Health Study, a cohort of pesticide applicators in Iowa and North Carolina, we evaluated the odds of wheeze associated with nonpesticide occupational exposures. We used logistic regression models controlling for age, state, smoking, and history of asthma or atopy to evaluate odds of wheeze in the past year among the 20,898 farmers who provided complete information on all covariates. Driving diesel tractors was associated with elevated odds of wheeze (odds ratio = 1.31; 95% confidence interval = 1.13, 1.52); the odds ratio for driving gasoline tractors was 1.11 (95% confidence interval = 1.02, 1.21). A duration-response relationship was observed for driving diesel tractors but not for driving gasoline tractors. Activities involving solvent exposure, including painting and use of solvents for cleaning, were associated with an increased odds of wheeze in a duration-dependent fashion. The highest odds of wheeze for farm activities were for daily painting (odds ratio = 1.82; 95% confidence interval = 0.89, 3.73), an indication of daily solvent exposure. These results add to the growing body of evidence of adverse respiratory effects of diesel exposure on the lung and suggest exposure to solvents may contribute as well. [References: 57]

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Article

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Authors

Perry SF. Reid SG. Gilmour KM. Boijink CL. Lopes JM. Milsom WK.
Rantin FT.

Title

A comparison of adrenergic stress responses in three tropical teleosts exposed to acute hypoxia

Source

American Journal of Physiology - Regulatory Integrative & Comparative Physiology. 287(1):R188-R197, 2004 Jul.

Abstract

Experiments were performed to assess the afferent and efferent limbs of the hypoxia-mediated humoral adrenergic stress response in selected hypoxia-tolerant tropical fishes that routinely experience environmental O₂ depletion. Plasma catecholamine (Cat) levels and blood respiratory status were measured during acute aquatic hypoxia [water PO₂ (PwO₂) = 10-60 mmHg] in three teleost species, the obligate water breathers Hoplias malabaricus (traira) and Piaractus mesopotamicus (pacu) and the facultative air breather Hoplerythrinus unitaeniatus (jeju). Traira displayed a significant increase in plasma Cat levels (from 1.3 +/- 0.4 to 23.3 +/- 15.1 nmol/l) at PwO₂ levels below 20 mmHg, whereas circulating Cat levels were unaltered in pacu at all levels of hypoxia. In jeju denied access to air, plasma Cat levels were increased markedly to a maximum mean value of 53.6 +/- 19.1 nmol/l as PwO₂ was lowered below 40 mmHg. In traира and jeju, Cat release into the circulation occurred at abrupt thresholds corresponding to arterial PO₂ (PaO₂) values of approximately 8.5-12.5 mmHg. A comparison of in vivo blood O₂ equilibration curves revealed low and similar P-50 values (i.e., PaO₂ at 50% Hb-O₂ saturation) among the three species (7.7-11.3 mmHg). Thus Cat release in traира and jeju occurred as blood O₂ concentration was reduced to approximately 50-60% of the normoxic value. Intravascular injections of nicotine (600 nmol/kg) elicited pronounced increases in plasma Cat levels in traира and jeju but not in pacu. Thus the lack of Cat release during hypoxia in pacu may reflect an inoperative or absent humoral adrenergic stress response in this species. When allowed access to air, jeju did not release Cats into the circulation at any level of aquatic hypoxia. The likeliest explanation for the absence of Cat release in these fish was that air breathing, initiated by aquatic hypoxia, prevented PaO₂ values from falling to the critical threshold required for Cat secretion. The ventilatory responses to hypoxia in each species were similar, consisting generally of increases in both frequency and amplitude. These responses were not synchronized with or influenced by plasma Cat levels. Thus the acute humoral adrenergic stress response does not appear to stimulate ventilation during acute hypoxia in these tropical species. [References: 50]

Publication Type

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Authors

Primack BA.

Title

Chiropractors are not a usual source of primary health care

Source

American Family Physician. 69(11):2544-+, 2004 Jun 1.

Abstract

Chiropractors are the largest source of off ice-based care in the United States that does not involve a physician, but people do not view chiropractors as primary providers of health care or advice. Unlike the care given by primary care providers, the majority of care provided by chiropractors is limited to musculoskeletal problems. [References: 36]

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Article

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<93>

Authors

van Amstel LL. Lafleur DL. Blake K.

Title

Raising our HEADSS: Adolescent psychosocial documentation in the emergency department

Source

Academic Emergency Medicine. 11(6):648-655, 2004 Jun.

Abstract

Objectives: To determine the effectiveness of a chart stamp featuring the acronym "HEADSS" (Home, Education, Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking, Sex) at improving adolescent psychosocial documentation in the emergency department (ED) chart. Methods: The study sample consisted of ten emergency physicians. The ED charts of 306 adolescent patients (aged 13-18 years) completed by these physicians were surveyed. An analysis of ED chart psychosocial documentation was conducted that compared a six-week control phase (with no chart stamp) with a four-week intervention phase (with a chart stamp featuring the HEADSS acronym). Presenting complaints in the ED, psychosocial documentation in the ED, and information from past medical records were compared between the two groups. Results: The ED charts surveyed consisted of 153 charts from each phase. HEADSS documentation ranged from 8% to 12% in the intervention phase and 0% to 7% in the control phase. Emergency physicians were more likely to document the topics of education ($p = 0.029$), alcohol ($p = 0.045$), and smoking ($p = 0.009$) as well as whether the patient was interviewed alone ($p = 0.0001$) in the intervention phase charts. Documentation of a detailed psychosocial assessment ($>4/6$ HEADSS topics addressed; $p = 0.003$) was more likely during the intervention phase. Conclusions: The HEADSS stamp is useful in prompting psychosocial documentation in the ED chart. Further study is needed to determine whether routine use of the HEADSS stamp technique can improve the detection and management of adolescent psychosocial problems.

[References: 48]

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